

## Parents bring 51 'kidnap' pupils back to Rhodesia

Parents left Botswana last night and to Rhodesia after persuading only 51 of the mission pupils, whom Mr Ian Smith was kidnapping at gunpoint, to come with them.

## stay in Botswana train as guerrillas

Mostly, the parents left Botswana last night and to Rhodesia after persuading only 51 of the mission pupils, whom Mr Ian Smith was kidnapping at gunpoint, to come with them.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leaving the Chapel Royal, Windsor, after yesterday's service.

## Day of thanksgiving mixed with sad memories for the Queen

By Penny Symon

The Queen, with many members of the Royal Family, attended morning service at the Chapel Royal in Windsor Great Park yesterday to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of her reign.

Among the royal party were the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Princess Anne and Prince Edward. Prince Andrew is at school in Canada.

The chapel, decorated with azaleas and spring flowers, was packed with people from the royal estate. No members of the public were allowed in, but a small crowd gathered at the gates.

For the family it was a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing, but it was also one of sad memories, for the anniversary of the Queen's accession is also that of the death of King George VI.

One of the events marking yesterday's anniversary was the publication in the *Sunday Mirror* of an article by the Duke of Edinburgh. In it, he said that Britain's situation was a sobering experience for all who came out of the war with high hopes and boundless enthusiasm.

"High rates of unemployment, falling living standards, rising prices, and the increasing burden of taxation and local government costs, and the embarrassing situation of having to borrow large sums of money from other nations are not the most auspicious circumstances for a jubilee year," he wrote.

"Yet it may well be that this experience is what we need to bring us all back to a greater sense of reality."

In common with everyone else, he said, the Queen and he had been affected by inflation, and had to distinguish when looking for ways to reduce costs between those that people might feel were traditions worth preserving and

25 years ago  
From The Times of Thursday, Feb 7, 1952

### Death of the King

It is with profound regret that we announce the death of the King at Sandringham early yesterday.

The following statement was issued from Buckingham Palace: "It was announced from Sandringham at 10.45 am today, February 6, 1952, that the King who retired to rest last night in his usual health passed peacefully away in his sleep early this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh broke the news to the new Queen in Kenya. After hurried preparations had been made they flew from the little landing ground near Nyeri to Entebbe, Uganda, to join their airplane at Addis Ababa. A tropical storm delayed their departure from Entebbe for two hours. They left just before midnight (8.47 pm GMT) and are expected to reach London at 4.30 pm today.

The Queen and Princess Margaret were at Sandringham when the King died. His Majesty had been out shooting on the previous day. The Accession Council at a brief meeting at 5 pm yesterday signed the proclamation of Queen Elizabeth II. There will be another meeting after the new Queen's return when she will address the Privy Council. The public proclamation will be made tomorrow.

Those things that were out of touch... "Presentation parties for debutantes were at an early and not much regretted casualty. Garden parties were, on the other hand, increased in size and number. All but state occasions were drastically simplified, and we developed new patterns of entertainment."

Elsewhere, however, the issue of royal finances angered several Labour MPs. They had feared that the Queen's Civil List allowance had been increased last year to £265,000. A Treasury spokesman said that that took her allowance from £1.4m to £1,665,000, and other members of the Royal Family had also received extra money. The Queen Mother now receives £140,000, compared with

## Ombudsman takes up vaccination complaints

The cases of four children who are said to have suffered brain damage after whooping cough vaccinations are to be investigated by Sir Idwal Pugh, the Health Service Commissioner (Ombudsman).

The announcement, yesterday came two days before Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, is due to make a full statement on vaccination to the House of Commons.

Sir Idwal's intervention was reported by Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Sinks-on-Trent, South, who has led a parents' campaign. In a letter to Mr Ashley Sir Idwal said he had decided that the complaint, which was made on behalf of parents of four children who belong to the Association of Parents of Vaccine Damaged Children, lay within his jurisdiction.

Sir Idwal gave a warning that if any of the parents whose complaints he is investigating took legal action he would have to consider, carefully, whether to continue. But Mrs Rosemary Fox, secretary of the parents' association, said yesterday that none of the parents would take action while the investigation was in progress.

"The complaint that I shall be investigating is the following: That the parents concerned gave their consent to the immunisation of their children in ignorance of the risks to which this might be exposing them, and that this ignorance was caused by the failure of the Department of Health and Social Security to make available to those parents information about all the factors which they should have taken into account before they gave that consent."

Mrs Fox said: "I am very pleased that the Ombudsman has taken this step. This is the biggest breakthrough so far."

The parents of the 340 brain-damaged children who belong to the association are not expected to gain further comfort from Mr Ennals's statement. On compensation, Mr Ennals is most unlikely to depart from his previous line that the Government must wait for the report of the Royal Commission on Civil Liabilities, under Lord Pearson, which is studying the question of vaccine damage.

Mr Ennals is likely to try to ensure that the risks to children are cut to a minimum by making doctors and parents more aware of the conditions that indicate that a child should not be vaccinated.

Mr Ennals said yesterday that he would not be satisfied if Mr Ennals stated merely that he must wait for the Pearson report. "Mr Ennals has got a very clear obligation to make a specific commitment to compensation on Tuesday," he said.

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Lady Falkender wrote out honours list, Haines book claims

By Robert Parker

The controversial resignation of the Honours List Secretary Sir Harold Wilson last year was almost entirely drawn up by Lady Falkender, his private and personal secretary, according to an article in today's *Daily Mirror*.

The article is based on the contents of a book by Mr Joe Haines, Sir Harold's former press secretary. The book is called *The Politics of Power*, and is to be published next week. The *Daily Mirror* will be serialising it, and today's edition contains five pages based on the contents.

Sir Harold resigned in March last year, and there was outrage from some over some of the people in his Resignation Honours list. Many were from the world of entertainment. Sir Harold strongly defended the list.

But according to Mr Haines the list of 42 was drawn up by Lady Falkender in her own handwriting.

The *Daily Mirror* quotes the following from Mr Haines's book: "The list from which Sir Harold prepared his own list was Lady Falkender's, written out in her own hand on the lavender-coloured notepaper she often used."

It was that list, with a few deletions and a few additions in the Prime Minister's handwriting, which the principal private secretary used when he set in motion the inquiries and procedures which are always followed before a submission is made to the Queen.

At the time, some of the names added by Sir Harold improved the quality of the list, but the substantial majority of the knights and the peers who were in the published list were those originally proposed by Lady Falkender.

"The fact is that almost every person on the upper slopes of the list was as well known to Lady Falkender as to the Prime Minister himself. Some of them were undoubtedly better known to her than to him."

The honours list was published on May 27. There were 42 names on it including nine new life peers among them Sir Lew Grade, Sir Bernard Delfont, Sir Joseph Kagan and Sir George Weidenfeld.



Mr Joe Haines: Allegations in book.

laghan, as Prime Minister announced that the source of the leak had not been discovered.

After the list was officially announced, Mr Sydney Bidwell, Labour MP for Ealing, Southall, and a former chairman of the *Trinidad* Group, said: "The names on the list have nothing to do with the promotion of socialism which is what the Labour Party and the Labour Government mission is supposed to be about."

In June 2, Sir Harold took the unprecedented step of issuing a statement to "nail the liars". He attacked the orchestrated vendetta against the list, insisting that it was his and his alone. He said: "In view of deliberate misrepresentations and a campaign of innuendo and personalities which have followed the publication of the resignation honours list, I have decided to break with precedent."

He added: "The list was mine, and mine from the beginning. Whether any individual names are criticized or supported I take full responsibility for and for all of them. I still have the original names, substantially as published written down by myself after consultation with no one else."

Last night Lady Falkender was unobtainable for comment. But on independent television news, Sir Harold was reported as saying that he was seeking to his original statement.

Mr Joe Haines was for six years the personal press secretary of Sir Harold Wilson. A former lobby correspondent on *The Sun*, he was seconded to number two press secretary to the press office at 10 Downing Street, in December, 1968. Six months later he succeeded Mr Trevor Lloyd-Bughes as press secretary to the Prime Minister.

In July, 1970, he moved on to Sir Harold's personal staff as press secretary, a post he occupied until Sir Harold's resignation.

## A sour fate for vintage burgundy

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 6  
One hundred and seven casks of burgundy auctioned at last November's famous annual wine sales of the Hospices de Beaune were to be withdrawn and their buyers refused. The burgundy will be turned into eau de vie or vinegar.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Hospices admit that an "accident unprecedented in the history of the vineyard" occurred in the handling of the harvest.

The statement said that part of the 1976 harvest was put in casks which had been used in the two previous years. But some were imperfectly sterilized. As a result, 107 casks had "acquired an abnormal volatile acidity" while the wine put in 220 new casks had the characteristics of a great vintage.

The vineyard's administrators said that as soon as they noticed the defects in the wine, they agreed that the 107 casks should remain in their cellars pending a decision by the National Institute for Agronomic Research.

"We want to be the only losers in this painful affair," the administrators add in their statement. They point out that last year's five months of drought had produced wines of exceptional body and colour.

## s in Brittany herald lent Giscard's tour

in Correspondent

attacks were carried by militants of Liberation Front saw attention to for home rule President Giscard no-day visit to the target was television licence bombs went off interval, ruff of their hinges, ings and floor, every window in A student at a was injured by away at Redon blew out all the

There have now been seven bomb attacks by the autonomists since the past few months. The President's visit is being boycotted by all regionalist groups and by folklore associations, and the unions are planning demonstrations and strikes. The fishermen of south Brittany will stop work for 24 hours tomorrow. They will also stage a demonstration at Quimper where the President is due to meet local leaders.

According to the Elysée Palace, Mr Giscard d'Estaing's visit will be the first of a series of trips by the President to the provinces.

Photograph, page 4

## Surgeons attack bias and strife in NHS

The Royal College of Surgeons has delivered a stinging indictment on the state of the National Health Service. It complains of exploitation, strife and collapse of morale among staff. It said there was a feeling that patients' needs had been made secondary to the political bias of legislators, the cold calculations of planners, and the thrusting self-interest of NHS staff, including doctors.

Reports from prisoners at Gartree maximum security jail, near Leicester, allege "persistent acts of victimization" against IRA prisoners. It is said that other prisoners "feel indignation at the way the wretches are suffering". A warning is given that a riot may break out unless conditions improve.

While hints are being floated that the Government may not protect unemployment benefits against inflation in November, a departmental group has concluded that the gap between benefit and pensions is too large.

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## Treasury seeks new state industry control

Radical changes in the financial objectives and investment criteria of the nationalized industries could result from a reappraisal by the Treasury. Particular attention is being given to devising new methods of financial control for public sector investment.

Battle lines for the succession to Mr Scanlon, president of the engineering workers' union, Mr Robert Wright has been chosen by the left wing of the union and Mr Terence Duffy will stand as a moderate. The secret postal ballot will be held in September.

Chawton protest: Plans to make a bungalow of the Tudor forge in Jane Austen's village of Chawton, Hampshire, are being opposed by 56 of the villagers.

Human rights: The General Synod of the Church of England is to debate a report on human rights.

Continued on page 2, col 3

## 'Disaster' aid on way for snowbound city

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Feb 6  
With a new wave of Arctic weather gripping the mid-western and eastern states, President Carter has at last upgraded his "emergency" into a "disaster declaration" for the snowbound city of Buffalo.

The effect is to go beyond sending emergency equipment such as snowploughs and excavators. A disaster declaration provides such help as special unemployment funds.

Business News, page 19

## London Offices To Let

A selection from our register



Aldwych House	from 4,100 sq ft
High Holborn	14,000 sq ft
Fetter Lane	7,000 sq ft
Grays Inn Road	16,000 sq ft
Trinity Square	44,000 sq ft
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...ent of NHS

## Strasbourg case is threat to action against Provisionals

Christopher Walker  
The attempt to force the British Government to take disciplinary action against members of the Provisional IRA is still in the hands of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The case, which was brought by the Human Rights Committee, is expected to be heard in the near future. The committee is expected to rule on whether the British Government has failed to take adequate steps to prevent the IRA from operating in Northern Ireland.

## admit RUC murder

Official IRA admitted yesterday that it was responsible for the murder of a Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officer in a council house in Belfast. The officer, who was killed in a shooting, was the first RUC officer to be killed by the IRA since the start of the conflict.

## educational standards ng, teachers say

Half the members of the National Association of Teachers' Unions (NATU) say that educational standards are falling. They claim that the current system of education is failing to provide a good quality of education for all children. The NATU is calling for a complete overhaul of the education system to ensure that all children receive a high standard of education.

## ription charge of 50p would cut expenditure by £45m a year

A charge of 50p per prescription would reduce the cost of the National Health Service (NHS) by £45m a year, according to a report by the Health Select Committee. The report suggests that the current system of free prescriptions is unsustainable and that a charge of 50p per prescription would be a fair and effective way to reduce the cost of the NHS.

## Answers in Parliament

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies, with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard.  
**Treasury, Jan 31**  
Cost of living: The minutes of work required by a man on the average wage to earn, before tax, the price of one kilo of sirloin steak in October, 1975, were 95 in Britain, 146 in France, 150 in Federal Germany and 79 in Ireland.  
**Prices, Jan 28**  
The comparable times for other foodstuffs were: bread—56, 82, 40, 47; butter—18, 15, 9, 13; oranges—13, 17, 12, 15; potatoes—33, 81, 49, 40; milk—7, 4, 4, 5; one litre of milk—6, 15, 5; one dozen eggs—17, 24, 15, 19.  
**Treasury, Jan 26**  
Food subsidies: Expenditure on the general food subsidy programme in 1975 was £551.3m and in 1976 £444m. That was made up of: bread, £83.1m, £57.9m; butter, £45.8m, £38.2m; cheese, £53.8m, £45.3m; flour, £7.8m, £7.6m; milk, £59.2m, £28.9m; tea, £29.8m, £24.1m.  
**Prices, Jan 28**  
Price increases: According to information used to compile the

## Pride and prejudice against the developers

From Philip Howard  
Chawton, Hampshire  
It is a truth universally acknowledged that the principal industry of an English country village is the discussion of other people's affairs. For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbours, and laugh at them in our turn? Jane Austen's own pretty little village of Chawton, where she described the idyllic life of the English character more wittily than anyone before or since, is disappearing. No fewer than 50 of the villagers, many of whose families have lived here for many generations, and most of whom can readily be identified with Miss Bates, Mrs Bennet, and other Austen characters, have signed a petition protesting about a proposal to redevelop the Tudor house. Planning permission is being sought to turn the house into a bungalow and build a two-story house behind it overlooking the converted William III coaching inn in the middle of the village. The village council plans to hold a meeting at the house next Friday to try to soothe local opposition to the plan, which involves cutting down a fine old sycamore and erecting yet more modern architecture to hem in Jane's house.

The villagers, who have had very little to do with the house in the century and a half since Jane left them, are unimpressed by the examples of modern architecture that have recently been inflicted upon their village, which is supposed to be a conservation area. Two atrocious bungalows, built by an incomer to the village who then sold them and left, are known locally as the public lavatories. Two large and exceedingly ugly

## Bishop at church of discord

The Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev John Taylor, preached yesterday at St Mary's church, Andover, where the vicar, the Rev Peter Chandler, recently dismissed the organist and seven members of the choir. They had opposed his plan for a simpler evensong service, with just a piano accompaniment. The bishop called for "petty pride" to be put into proportion. He condemned the recent happenings and said one could only pray that when the public "laugh at us," they keep their respect for Christ.

Yesterday's service was conducted by Mr Chandler, aged 55, and the organist, Mr Lloyd Ponting, aged 68, and the seven dismissed choristers were in the congregation. The music was provided by a pianist.  
Dr Taylor, referring to the church's musical life, said: "By all means offer the finest music you can, if you offer it for the love of God and with love for others. But if your thoughts become focused on the things you are doing then in or the disagreements you have over these, your worship rises no higher than a precarious roof." He is to meet members of the parochial church council and choir this week to try to resolve the dispute.



The leading protesters, Mrs Elizabeth Rose, Sir Hugh Smiley and Mrs Kate Cleaver, standing in front of the threatened house (right).

modern houses have been built on the other side of Jane's house from the house, and planning permission is being sought to erect two similar eyesores at the bottom of her garden. If that happens the period charm and peace of Jane's house will be surrounded by modern ugliness on three sides.

The house is a single-story, simple brick cottage, with shutters, built in 1540. For no recorded reason, it has cheap metal plaques of Francis I and King Edward III. A family called Cliteler lived in the house and provided the village blacksmith from time immemorial until they left in 1951. Village records show that the Cliteler family spent a night away from the house only once in all that time, when they went away for a Christmas visit, like Mr Wood-

run such a centre. He sees himself as a catalyst in the exercise.  
Over the past year meetings with businessmen, public servants, politicians and academics have convinced him that a "bridge" is needed between theoreticians and policy makers. The intention would be to attract younger civil servants, academics, businessmen and ministerial special advisers to exchange ideas on economic and social issues.

Unlike in Washington, where frequent movement in and out of the Administration at the highest levels is part of the established pattern, such interchange is minimal in Britain, to the detriment of public life generally. Professor Dahrendorf believes. For that reason the proposed centre would be based within easy reach of Westminster, Whitehall and the City.  
Its initial budget would be about £1m a year, providing library, research and club facilities, as well as a series of high-level conferences. Professor Dahrendorf hopes to attract sponsors in North America, Europe and Britain. A commitment from the Ford Foundation would bring the project close to fulfilment, and the centre could be in operation by the end of the year.

There are, of course, nice discriminations in their attitude to the redevelopment: between the gentry, the retired middle-class incomers, the indigenous villagers, and the other strata of village society. They are too subtle to be captured except by the affectionate malice of Jane herself. But such incomers as Mrs Kate Cleaver and Mrs Betty Leather, still uses her stage name Betty Finchard for professional purposes, tend to be prominent in the campaign to save the village from redevelopment.

There is little doubt, however, that the whole village is generally unhappy about the way it is being exploited to make quick money by outsiders who do not live there.  
Several members of the advisory editorial board of *Personnel Management*, official journal of the Institute of Personnel Management, have asked for their names not to be printed in emergency issues produced during a dispute. Nineteen journalists employed by the publishers, Mercury House, Lambeth, are on strike. Those who have asked for their names to be omitted include Mr James Morrison, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), who says that association with an issue produced during an official strike is not compatible with neutrality.

## Sales threat troubles tobacco concerns

By Neville Hodgkinson  
Social Policy Correspondent  
The Government and the tobacco industry have reached a critical stage in their talks on smoking controls. They are at the point where the Government must either drop some of its key proposals or legislate on them and risk losing the cooperation of considerable sections of the industry.  
The clash is particularly significant in that Imperial Tobacco, which owns Players and Wills and holds about two-thirds of the British market, is growing increasingly nervous that its policy of close collaboration with the Government in the development of a "safer" cigarette may have severe commercial disadvantages.  
The fear arises not just because of doubts about the sales prospects of safer tobacco substitutes. In the course of developing these new materials there has come into existence a unique machine, the Government-appointed Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health, which for the first time may expose all its products to rigorous scientific analysis.

The feeling is growing in the industry that this analytical process, by eroding the mystique and with it some of the pleasure surrounding the smoking habit, may be a bigger long-term threat to sales than any amount of official condemnation.  
From the Government's point of view, the fact that such fears are emerging would seem to indicate that its strategy is successful. The achievement is all the more notable in that most of the research, costing millions of pounds, has been paid for by the industry.  
But matters have difficulties in deciding what to do next if they are to remain the industry's support for further progress on the scientific front.  
The Government had intended to lay an order under the Medicines Act to make tobacco products containing

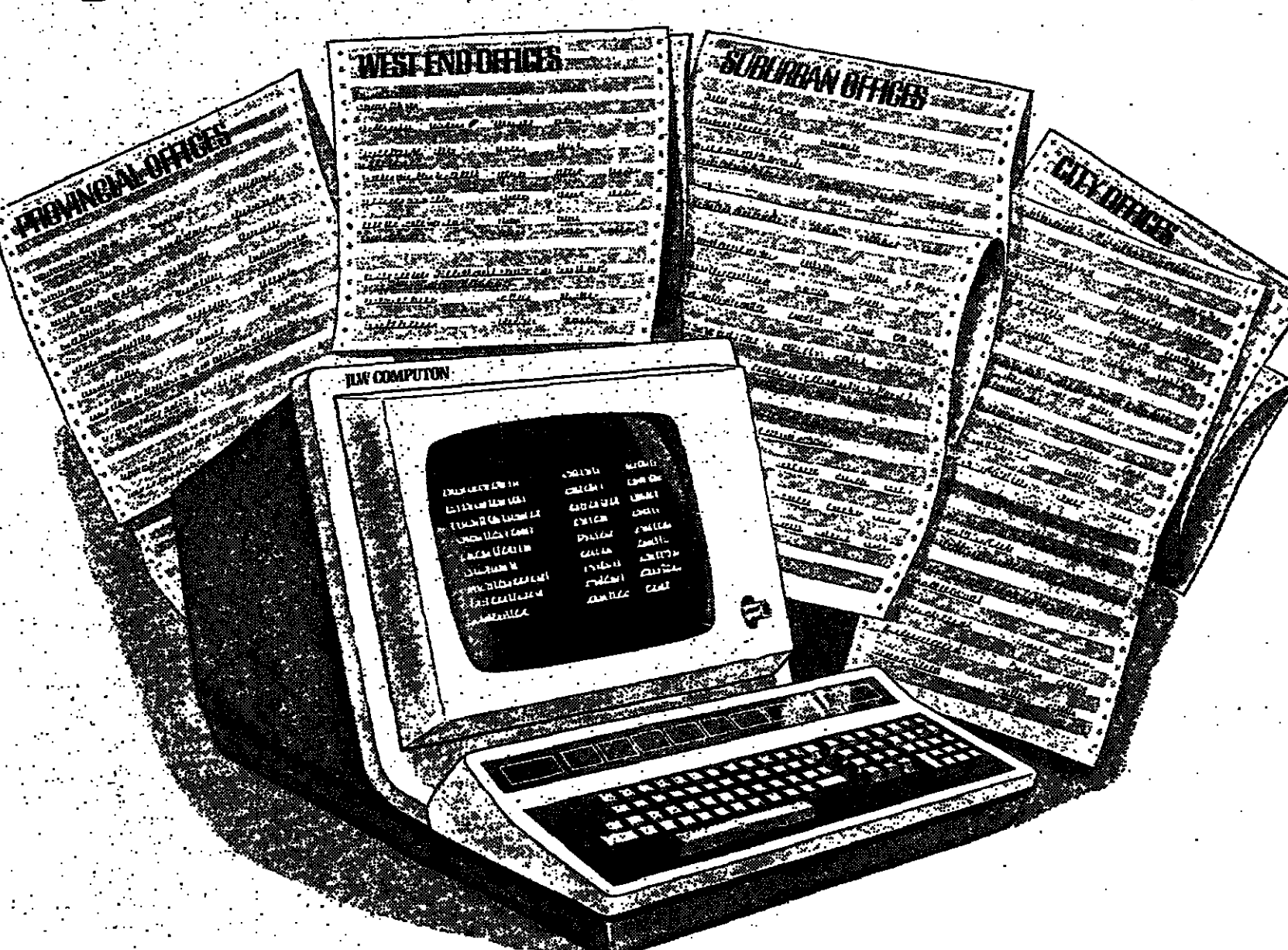
additives or substitutes subject to a licensing procedure. That idea was dropped after American-owned companies with interests in the British market indicated that they would challenge such an order as being beyond ministerial powers. The Government decided, after legal advice, not to risk an embarrassing defeat in the courts.  
It is now committed to introducing legislation that will give the scientific committee some statutory status, and bring substitutes and additives formally within the scope of the Medicines Act. But the legislation is not expected before the next parliamentary session, and with difficulties over meeting EEC requirements for harmonizing tobacco taxation policy, the Government is particularly anxious to obtain cooperation in the meantime.  
Talks are under way to try to work out an informal interim agreement whereby the new products can go on sale as soon as they are cleared by the committee. But a hindrance to agreement is that the industry is also under threat of legislation if it does not agree to further voluntary curbs on advertising and promotion. In particular, the tobacco companies are united in resisting pressure for a stronger health warning on packs.  
Again, there is some bitterness in the industry that its own research on tobacco substitutes has increased medical certainties over the health hazards.  
Imperial Tobacco has a £14m factory at Ardeer, in Scotland, which is stockpiling New Smoking Material, the tobacco substitute it has developed jointly with ICI, in anticipation of a go-ahead from the scientific committee. That approval is likely within the next few weeks.  
But after all the cooperation Imperial has given the Government, the outlook for the product is nothing like as bright as it once appeared.

## Windscale strike continues

About 2,000 workers from the Windscale nuclear plant, west Cumbria, voted overwhelmingly at a mass meeting yesterday to continue a strike that has lasted 10 days and has brought work on nuclear fuel reprocessing to a standstill.  
The strike has stopped atomic generators that send electricity into the national grid.

A total of 4,000 workers are affected by the strike, which began over payment of 1,000 workers.  
A peace formula put forward by the employers yesterday offered payment of £15 a person for a return to work so that negotiations to resolve the dispute could continue.

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## WEST EUROPE

## EEC seeks way to stop British pig subsidies

From David Cross  
Brussels, Feb 6

Mr Roy Jenkins and his colleagues in the European Commission will have to decide this week how to proceed in their legal dispute with the British Government over what they regard as illegal payments by Whitehall to British pig farmers.

The Danes, who consider that the special £3.50 a head subsidies are hitting their exports of pork and bacon to Britain, are to voice their objections at a meeting of foreign ministers of the Nine here on Tuesday.

The Irish and Dutch, whose products can sell pork and bacon to Britain, are expected to join in the general condemnation of the British move.

In spite of the criticism, the British are continuing to justify the subsidies as a necessary step to preserve Britain's long-term supplies of pork and bacon.

In a formal reply to the Commission's allegations of illegality, the British maintain that the subsidies are required to slow down the present rapid slaughter rate of British pigs, which they believe has been started off by cheap imports from other parts of the Community.

The most likely course of action now is that the Commission will set a time limit for the British to abolish the subsidies. If the Government again refuses to step into line the case would probably go to the European Court of Justice.

The Commission originally declared the subsidies illegal on the ground that they would distort the flow of intra-Community trade.

## Spanish right calls for an end to 'crisis of authority'

From William Chislett  
Oviedo, Feb 6

While the Spanish left still haggles over electoral strategy, Señor Manuel Fraga, the former Interior Minister and head of the Popular Alliance, the main right-wing force, unofficially started his campaigning here this weekend with a call for authority to be established.

"There is a crisis of authority," he told a crowd of about 4,000 in the sports stadium last night. "The country is going through tense, difficult and dramatic moments, the result of organized subversion." He criticized the Suárez Government for adopting "insufficient methods" to combat the wave of political violence. "Tumours cannot be cured with aspirins," he told his supporters.

Señor Fraga did not say what other measures should be adopted apart from the present ones which give police the right to hold people for up to a month and enter homes without warrant, but he left no doubts that in this delicate period of transition he wants his supporters to regard him as Mr Authority.

This was the first time since the Popular Alliance was formed last October that four of the seven leaders—the magnificent seven—as the press calls the group—appeared together. With Señor Fraga on the platform, decorated with the red and yellow national flag and a large golden cross, the other three were also decorated.

Magnificent seven—the press calls the group—appeared together. With Señor Fraga on the platform, decorated with the red and yellow national flag and a large golden cross, the other three were also decorated. The group included the former Public Works Minister, Señor Cruz Martínez Estrella, former Education Minister and

Señor Licio de la Fuente, former Labour Minister.

Democracy could not be installed without guaranteeing public order, said Señor Fraga, who went on to attack the communists. "We are faced with a camouflage operation where they are trying to present themselves as 'people of order'." In the countries where they govern, without a single exception, there is only their party with an iron dictatorship, concentration camps and psychiatric treatment for dissidents.

The alliance is vehemently against the Spanish Communist Party's participation in the elections. The most virulent anti-communism came from Señor de la Mora, regarded as the philosopher of the far right. When polling day arrived, he said, people would have to opt for totalitarian Marxism and terror or Christian humanism and freedom.

Every speaker emphasized that the alliance stood for "progress in order and freedom in peace." This was a line which the mainly middle class audience appreciated. Oviedo was the centre of the miners' rising in 1934 which was bloody repressed by the army. Blood under General Franco. Part of the cathedral still bears the scars of burning.

Traditionally it is a socialist area and the Popular Alliance has been working hard to gain support. Half a million leaflets were distributed in the area. Señor Fraga opened an office of the party in Oviedo today.

Madrid, Feb 6.—Despite the economic recession, a royal decree in the official gazette yesterday promised the armed forces all the money they wanted to bring themselves up to Nato standards.—Reuter.

## 18 countries set aside disputes to save sea

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Feb 6

Traditional foes such as the Israelis and Arabs, and the Greeks and Turks, are putting aside their quarrels to join in saving the Mediterranean from a slow death through pollution. About 30 legal and technical experts from the 18 Mediterranean countries are meeting in Athens from today until Friday to negotiate a treaty on controlling pollution from land-based sources such as industries, sewers and agriculture.

A good beginning for unhindered regional cooperation was made in Barcelona last year when representatives of 16 of the states approved three treaties to protect the Mediterranean from pollution caused by ships and aircraft and to cooperate in fighting oil spills. A United Nations regional centre to coordinate action against oil spills was opened in Malta six weeks ago.

The agreement, known as the Mediterranean Action Plan, was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the request of the coastal states, but prepared proposals for the new treaty that the delegates will discuss in Athens.

Biologists have given warnings that the largest part of sea pollution is caused by factories, sewage and pesticides. It is estimated that 90 per cent of all municipal sewage in the Mediterranean is poured into the sea without undergoing full biological treatment.

Mr Peter Thacher, UNEP's European Director, said: "The task of the Athens experts will be to determine what should go into the agreement and how it is to be negotiated."

"They must tell us how strict a control their governments are prepared to accept, and how fast they are willing to go in banning some kinds of industrial and municipal waste, and in controlling others."

UNEP has set up a network of 72 laboratories in 14 coastal countries, which are engaged in a two-year study of Mediterranean pollution. The laboratories are sponsored by individual governments, so that the latter will not be able to challenge the final findings.

UNEP's proposals to the Athens meeting urge the governments of coastal states to adopt common standards in dealing with the treatment of hazardous types of sewage, such as sewage from hospitals and industrial wastes.

Mr Thacher hopes that the treaty to control land-based sources of pollution could be ready by the end of 1978.

## Dangers seen for defence of West Europe

Paris, Feb 6.—The Soviet-American pursuit of détente and the rise of Eurocommunism were creating an unstable situation that could be dangerous for the defence of West Europe, according to a three-day international conference that ended here yesterday.

One delegate, Mr Ian Smart, assistant director of the Institute of International Affairs in London, suggested that there might be a return of tensions between Western Europe and the Soviet Union, which he said, "is a real danger."

Mr Smart said that the Atlantic alliance was its purpose to defend the ideals of liberal democracy.—Agence France-Press.

## Freed Chilean leader 'at risk in Russia'

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Feb 6

Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Soviet dissident freed last year in exchange for Señor Luis Corvalán, the Chilean communist leader, believes that Señor Corvalán would soon find himself in prison in Russia, "if he is an honest man."

Mr Bukovsky, who was speaking at a conference in St Nazaire, claimed the arrest last week of Mr Alexander Ginsburg, another Soviet dissident, was very symbolic. "It proves that the Soviet Union had no intention of starting the start of applying the Helsinki agreement," he added.

Mr Bukovsky defined the aims of the Soviet dissidents as "rediscovering public opinion in the country, and giving everyone the possibility of expressing every kind of opinion. One could call the dissident movement a defence of civil rights," he said. "I come from a country where everything is forbidden... except when it is allowed. I come from a country where one could only political opinion one likes, but is forbidden to talk about them."

There are about 80,000 students in Greek universities, but only just over half who had registered as union members were qualified to vote.

The student branch of the Communist Party of the Interior, the Greek version of Eurocommunism, which is at loggerheads with the orthodox party, won 10,027 votes and 117 council seats.

The group associated with Mr Andreas Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement, which won the largest number of seats in the previous election, fell to third place with 102 seats.

## OVERSEAS

Marxist belt across southern Africa takes shape  
Mozambique congress sings in praise of 'scientific socialism'

From Nicholas Ashford  
Maputo, Feb 6

It could have almost been a scene from Rodgers and Hammerstein. A provincial delegate at Frelimo's third congress had just finished explaining how the factory where he worked had managed to raise its production of underpants and bikinis when the 330 delegates suddenly burst into song.

In a rhythmic, melodious chant they were extolling the virtues of "scientific socialism" and praising the enlightened leadership of Frelimo, the Mozambique Liberation Front.

The congress proceedings are frequently punctuated by outbursts of singing, sometimes led by President Samora Machel or by Mr Joaquim Chissano, his Foreign Minister. It is a pleasant, if somewhat unorthodox, way of launching a new "vanguard party" which is dedicated to the "universal principles of Marxism-Leninism."

There are in fact many incongruities about this Frelimo congress, the first to be held since Mozambique won its independence from Portugal.

The foundations of the "new society" which Frelimo hopes to create are being laid on the site of one of the bastions of Portuguese colonial rule—the officer's club in Maputo. Its clover-leafed swimming pool looks inviting, but sadly unused.

Frelimo describes itself as an alliance of workers and peasants, but the delegates are fitted out in neat, square-shouldered suits which would be more in keeping with a conservative party congress than that of one aiming at socialist revolution.

The organization of the congress, which is being run on classic communist party lines, would be hard to fault.

Speeches are simultaneously translated into half a dozen languages for the benefit of fraternal delegates and the international press (which includes a South African journalist).

Pretty girls in long dresses hand out copies of party documents, and the revolutionary chants which intersperse the speeches have clearly been well rehearsed. The sessions begin and end on time in very un-African fashion, except for President Machel's marathon nine-hour opening speech.

He dominates the proceedings, his face almost continuously wreathed in a broad smile. The congress is the high point of his career, consolidating his control over party and country. It is his show and he clearly enjoys the praise which is showered on him.

There are 37 foreign delegations including 23 that represent Marxist parties in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and six representing left-wing liberation movements in Africa and the Arab world. It is not hard to see where Frelimo's affiliations lie.

The warmest applause was accorded to Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, leader of the Soviet-inclined Portuguese Communist Party, and Señor Jorge Risquet Valdez, a senior member of the Cuban Communist Party. The Chinese and their Asian neighbours are all absent.

The launching of an openly Marxist party in Mozambique, and the consolidation of its links with pro-Soviet communist parties, is an event of great significance for southern Africa.

A similar event is soon to take place in Angola when the ruling MPLA (Popular Front) holds its congress later this year. The

Marxist belt across southern Africa, to which Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, referred in a speech last year, is beginning to take shape.

Of equal importance is the strengthening of the alliance between Frelimo and the main black nationalist groups in southern Africa—the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

These ties have always existed. But when Mr Joshua Nkomo, one of the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front and until recently regarded as one of the most moderate of the Rhodesian nationalists, starts talking about "scientific socialism", the extent to which left-wing ideologies are taking root becomes apparent.

As Mr Robert Mugabe, the other Patriotic Front leader, put it: "We must learn from the laboratory of Frelimo's experience."

Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC, said that Mozambique was the dynamism force for political, social and economic change in southern Africa. Frelimo's example would provide a basis for the establishment of a new society in South Africa.

All the nationalist leaders emphasized the need for international solidarity to support their struggle. The Patriotic Front was strong declared Mr Mugabe to loud applause, "because we do not stand alone."

The strains of the "international" at the end of the session, sung in a multitude of tongues, show that this support existed in word if not always in deed.

## Call to UN over Ugandan 'torture' allegations

By David Watts

Amnesty International called on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights last to study "gross violation of human rights in Uganda" President Idi Amin power in January, 1971.

A report by Amnesty International, which has seen members states attending commission's session.

The report admits that no reliable figures for number of people who have been killed or disappeared since 1971, but the estimates range between 50,000 and 300,000. Torture has become an "routine procedure in some areas and police detention is used as a means of extracting information from the report, particularly at Naguru, Mukinda. Many victims killed while being tortured.

Apart from whipping, common tortures are: prisoners are ordered to each other to death with a hammer, and then the victim is shot; prisoners are made to crawl over upturned iron bars in concrete prisons given a crack with which to kill one another.

The report says that at least 245 Kenyans have been killed during the war on Entebbe to free the 121 passengers of a hijacked jet. Many witnesses who knew happened to her were taken to the United Kingdom.

Mass killings in the number in the thousands in 1971-72 and 1974, say the report, and large numbers of prisoners, academics, leaders, civil servants, former politicians and journalists have been arrested subsequently "disappeared."

Two prominent Ugandans disappeared last year. Father Clement Muekwa was arrested by soldiers saying mass in Masaka and later found murdered. Mr John Serwanika, ed the Roman Catholic newspaper, who was found in police custody. Indirect arrests and "disappearances" follow any incident apt to threaten the regime.

Amnesty International's disappearance of Mr. and the inadequacy of U Government inquiries into incidents, including the torture of Makerere university students, reveal need for an independent thorough investigation. Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Uganda Radio has no reference to the A report, but has reported Mr. expected to adhere to its pattern of attacking A as a "Zionist, color organization."

However, a Ugandan spokesman has announced three Ugandan exiles have been arrested. He said the film he prepared for issue through International Commission Human Rights, "with the intention of damaging the life of Uganda."

## 'Poor England,' say Germans

Bonn, Feb 6.—West Germans, who are helping to prop up sterling, have been taking a hard look at England and have apparently decided it is in need of a rest-cure.

In one of a spate of articles about Britain's social and economic ills, the mass-circulation magazine Stern sighed: "Poor, poor England."

The magazine Quick, in an analysis headed "World Power Now Facing Bankruptcy", asked: "Must we now save England?"

With thousands of Germans flooding to London on cheap shopping trips every week, the image of Britain here today is of a bargain basement where practically everything is up for sale.

But underlying the gleeful tales of Sheffield wool and Cashmere sweaters and English

blazers at a third or half the price in West Germany, writers here express real fears about the survival of Britain as an effective member of the Western alliance.

In a generally sympathetic look at the ailing British economy, Quick said: "This country (Britain) gave us modern democracy and the concept of fair play. It taught us that policemen don't have to shoot, and how to laugh at ourselves."

But the article added: "This country on whose empire the sun once never set and which gave us the Beatles and the mini-car, this England, which in its long history had made unparalleled achievements, is now exhausted."

As principal causes of Britain's industrial problems, most

newspapers here blame under-investment in the past, inefficient managers and the 650 trade unions which, said Quick, are too often competing with each other and ignoring the country's needs.

Stern said the Western partners, including Germany, now had to provide Britain, through the International Monetary Fund, with its biggest loans since the Second World War. But the conclusion in Quick was that it was worth it.

It says: "This country, for which the world has to be so grateful, cannot go under. The many billions which America, Germany and Japan have poured into Britain are the price of a rest-cure which may last many more years, but for which there is no alternative."—Reuter.

UNEP has set up a network of 72 laboratories in 14 coastal countries, which are engaged in a two-year study of Mediterranean pollution. The laboratories are sponsored by individual governments, so that the latter will not be able to challenge the final findings.

UNEP's proposals to the Athens meeting urge the governments of coastal states to adopt common standards in dealing with the treatment of hazardous types of sewage, such as sewage from hospitals and industrial wastes.

Mr Thacher hopes that the treaty to control land-based sources of pollution could be ready by the end of 1978.

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Mr Timothy Sithole went into Botswana for his three children but returned with only two. Knowledge (left) aged 13, and Elaine 12. His son Danny, 16, opted to join the guerrillas.

## Soviet journalist expelled from US in retaliation

From Fred Emery  
Washington, Feb 6

The United States, with President Carter's express intervention, has ordered the expulsion of a Soviet journalist from Washington in retaliation for the expulsion of an Associated Press reporter from Moscow.

Mr Vladimir Alekseyev, an employee of Tass and one of 36 Soviet citizens working here as journalists, was given one week to leave.

He was specifically selected because he is not believed to be engaged in spying. The Administration wanted his departure to be a symbolic gesture of protest against the disruption of journalistic activities.

Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, first summoned Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador, just before the Lenin Symphony Orchestra was to give a concert at the Kennedy Centre. He demanded that the Soviet Union should reconsider by the morning its expulsion of Mr George Krinsky, of Associated Press.

When on change of heart was forthcoming, the Administration acted far more promptly than many of its high officials had expected.

Whatever the Soviet motives the fact that conservatives both here and abroad might interpret the case as a test of Mr Carter's fortitude was felt to warrant swift retaliation.

"We regret this course of events, which is a step backward from the objective of improving working conditions for journalists contained in the Helsinki Final Act, and from the more fundamental interest of promoting a free flow of information," a State Department spokesman asserted.

## PLO leader misses King

Damascus, Feb 6.—Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, left here today shortly before King Hussein arrived in the city.

Officials declined to explain Mr Arafat's seemingly abrupt departure.

King Hussein came with his wife, Queen Aliya as guests of

## S African Catholics hear for clash over call-up

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Feb 6

The Roman Catholic Church in South Africa is heading for another serious clash with the authorities over a report that it should support the individual's right to conscientious objection.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference, now meeting in Pretoria, is to be urged to defend this right on the ground that a war in southern Africa might be an unjust one.

There is no doubt that the Government will react extremely angrily if the bishops support the proposal. It is already vexed over the opening of Catholic schools to all races and is working on measures to enforce its official policy of educational segregation.

In 1974, the South African Council of Churches, to which the bishops' conference has observer status, passed a resolution stating that the Republic of South Africa was at present an unjust and discriminatory society and that it did not

## Admiral tipped

Washington, Feb 6.—Admiral Stansfield Turner, Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe, and a former commander at naval academy of President Carter, is favourite for the post of head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

President Carter's close advisers are expected to announce the appointment of Mr Turner to the post of head of the CIA.

Mr Turner, 62, is a former naval officer and has served in various capacities in the Navy and the CIA.

He is a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and has been a vocal critic of the CIA's activities in Vietnam.

Mr Turner's appointment would be a significant move, as it would place a former naval officer in charge of the CIA.

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## Strategy in space

Cape Canaveral, Feb 6.—American military is reported to be carrying out a series of tests of anti-satellite weapons.

The tests are part of a program to develop and test anti-satellite weapons, which are designed to destroy or disable satellites in orbit.

The program is being carried out by the Air Force and the Navy, and is expected to continue for several years.

The tests are being conducted in the Caribbean Sea, and are expected to be a significant step forward in the development of anti-satellite weapons.

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## Irish President on state visit to West Germany

Bonn, Feb 6.—Dr Patrick Hillery, the Irish President, arrived here tonight for the first state visit by any holder of his office to West Germany.

During his four-day stay he will have talks with Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and with the Foreign Minister, and will formally welcome him tomorrow morning.

Dr Hillery is well known to West German leaders as the Foreign Minister who negotiated Ireland's entry into the European Community and as a former EEC Commissioner for Social Affairs.

His programme includes talks with prominent West German

## New ILO code to make life at sea safer

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Feb 6

An International Labour Organisation expert committee is putting the finishing touches here to a new code of practice intended to make shipboard life safer.

Most of it relates to risks encountered by seafarers in installations on land as well as at sea, such as the danger of explosions in bulk carriers of petroleum, gas or chemicals.

The experts, representing governments, employers and labour, say every ship must have a safety officer, nominated by the master and meeting regularly with



## Punctual payment of hire in charterparties

The *Latoria*  
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord  
Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Salmon,  
Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and  
Lord Russell of Killowen  
[Speeches delivered February 2]

Where a clause in a time charterparty provides for the payment of hire by instalments, the charterparty is not void for uncertainty. The clause is to be construed as requiring the charterer to pay the hire by instalments, and the charterparty is valid.

The House of Lords in so deciding overruled the Court of Appeal decision in *The Latoria* (1976) QB 488, which had held that a clause requiring the charterer to pay the hire by instalments was void for uncertainty.

The owners let the vessel on a time charter in the New York Produce Exchange form to the charterer for a period of 15 days. The charterparty provided that the charterer was to pay the hire by instalments.

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refuse the payment immediately and to return it that was done by a payment order for the same amount being sent to the charterers' bank the following day. At about 6.55 pm the owners gave notice to the charterers that the vessel was withdrawn from the charter.

In order to complete a voyage the charterers agreed to pay 50 per cent of the hire by instalment on the day of the withdrawal of the vessel. The charterers conceded that the instalment was due on the day of the withdrawal of the vessel.

The arbitrators found that the charterers were in breach of the charterparty by failing to pay the hire by instalment on the day of the withdrawal of the vessel.

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with third parties; the acts were not irrevocable, but provisional and reversible, consistent with an alternative decision of the customer which might be to accept or reject. The customer chose to reject, as rapidly as the circumstances permitted, and he could have given no ground to the charterers for supposing that the payment had been accepted. The charterers did not act on any such supposition.

Whatever the pattern of action was, it was not punctual payment and not accepted in waiver of the unpunctuality. There was no basis on which the arbitrators' finding against waiver could be attacked.

The result of his Lordship's conclusions on the two points left the matter thus: (1) Under the withdrawal clause, as under similar clauses, including the *Baltica* clause properly interpreted, a right of withdrawal arose as soon as default was made in punctual payment of an instalment of hire.

(2) The charterparty contained a clause which required the charterers to give notice of withdrawal to the charterers within a reasonable time after the default, and that the charterers were to be liable for the charterers' loss of time—essentially a matter for the arbitrators to find—depending on the circumstances. In some, indeed many cases, it would be the shortest time reasonably necessary to enable the shipowner to hear of the default and issue instructions. If of course the charterparty contained an express provision regarding notice to the charterers, that must prevail.

(3) The charterparty provided that the charterers were to be liable for the charterers' loss of time—essentially a matter for the arbitrators to find—depending on the circumstances. In some, indeed many cases, it would be the shortest time reasonably necessary to enable the shipowner to hear of the default and issue instructions. If of course the charterparty contained an express provision regarding notice to the charterers, that must prevail.

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## Britons in search for Colombian waterway

### Nine women head into tropical swamps to find a lost canal

Bogotá, Feb. 6.—An all-woman expedition of six Britons and three Colombians has begun searching the jungles and swamps of north-east Colombia for a lost canal said to have once linked the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

They are looking for the Respadura Canal, believed to have been dug in 1788 as the first waterway to join up the two oceans.

The team, led by Miss Carolyn Oxton, aged 32, set off yesterday in torrential rain along the Atrato river from the town of Quibdó. Their start had been delayed for several days by organizational problems. They are travelling in three inflatable boats powered by outboard motors.

Between now and the middle of April they expect to explore about 800 miles of river and swamp. As they search they intend making a documentary film on the wild life of the Atrato river.

A small unit of Colombian police will be following them because of the dangers the team could encounter in the tropical jungle and swamps.

"They were very cheerful and in good spirits", a local police chief reported from Quibdó after witnessing the expedition's departure. Despite heavy rain, hundreds of people, officials and police turned out to watch the three boats, flying the British and Colombian flags, slide out into the turbulent waters of the Atrato.

The first phase of the journey, lasting four weeks, will be taken up mainly with filming and zoological and anthropological studies. The group will then return to Quibdó before heading for the upper reaches

of the Atrato and the Respadura swamp. It is there they hope to find the canal which is believed to have flowed into the San Juan river and thence to the Pacific Ocean.

Reference books indicate the canal was built by Indians of the Novita tribe so that they could cross from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts in their small canoes.

Apart from Miss Oxton, a veteran of expeditions in Zaire and Jamaica, the British side of the team includes Miss Tessa Chodroning (film photographer), Miss Josie Brooker (radio operator), Miss Sue Hampson (mechanic), Miss Dodo Hampson (photographer) and Miss Madrya Brydon (liaison and organization).

The three Colombian scientists are headed by Señiora Maria Constanza Cubillos, an anthropologist.—Reuter.

checked. Nor did it mean that the work in the factories could be stopped, shortages created, law and order allowed to disintegrate and parliamentary proceedings held up.

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## In brief

### Quebec Premier in car fatality

Montreal, Feb. 6.—A car driven by Mr René Lévesque, the recently-elected Premier of Quebec, ran over a man lying in the road in western Montreal early today, police said. The man was dead by the time he reached hospital.

The police, who interviewed Mr Lévesque for two hours, said he had been swerving to avoid another man standing in the middle of the road when his car struck the man lying on the roadway. Charges are not expected to be laid.

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## Romantic détente

New York, Feb. 6.—Mr Vyacheslav Nemtchenko, aged 30, who spent four years trying to leave the Soviet Union to marry Miss Kathy Theimer, an American he met in Moscow as a student, has arrived in New York.

Mr Nemtchenko, who arrived from Pama by air to address the meeting, told the people to be prepared to offer sacrifices if they wanted to save democracy in the country. The choice before the public was between slavery and freedom.

The big public meeting set after a series of open discussions and there is less fear in people's minds than before. Most newspapers are still circumspect but something of the opposition has begun to appear on front pages. Comments are still few and it looks as if the journalists are afraid to open up. One explanation available is that censorship has been suspended and not lifted.

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## Girl's brain implant

Jane Newton, aged 13, from Stroud, Gloucestershire, who has been unable to walk or talk since birth, is to undergo an operation in Philadelphia next year for an electronic device to be implanted in her brain.

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## Amy Carter baptized

Washington, Feb. 6.—President Carter's nine-year-old daughter, Amy, was baptized in Washington's First Baptist Church in the traditional Baptist manner of total immersion in water.

The big public meeting set after a series of open discussions and there is less fear in people's minds than before. Most newspapers are still circumspect but something of the opposition has begun to appear on front pages. Comments are still few and it looks as if the journalists are afraid to open up. One explanation available is that censorship has been suspended and not lifted.

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## Rugby Union

## England put six dark years behind them

From Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent  
Dublin, Feb 6

The Irish forwards began with a characteristic clasp of Celtic underarm at Lansdowne Road yesterday but it was the English pack who, long before the finish of a desperately hard and bruising battle, established their authoritative grip. England, though the going would be tough and, my goodness, it was.

But the Irish are the most scracious and fastest of losers and, afterwards, they could find no one to suggest that the English victory by a try (4 pts) to nil was not hard-earned and deserved. It is six years since England previously succeeded in the championship away from home and it is six years since they began it with two wins.

As a result of a second disciplined and controlled performance, their renaissance under Roger Utley now stands clearly astride the championship and, though the way ahead looks harder yet, they at least will receive the formidable Frenchmen on Saturday week without an inferiority complex and will then go to Cardiff next month with the triple crown in their sights.

If there was an element of luck in the execution of the only score in an unspectacular but honest game, the English build-up to it was impressively fashioned. Midway through the second half, Horton won a short lineout on the right and Cohen, who had received a pass from Cooper, then looped outside Siemen to establish a mark on the left.

There was plenty of green cover but the England forwards arrived in strength and Kent fed back the ball from the main. Siemen appeared to have been hit by a wingman, but he was not hurt and he was able to pass the ball backwards and inside, whereupon Horton's right boot, in a well-timed strike, sent the ball into the hands of Cohen, who had been waiting for it.

Cooper gathered it just short of the line and, though he must have been within a whisker of putting a foot in touch in the instant before he grounded the ball, was awarded his first try for England by the first and best of referees, Mr. Palmer. With all the ball obtained by their resilient backs, England, it could be suggested, were a team with a strong defence. But, with a slithery ball on tacky



Leader of the renaissance: Utley, England's captain, waits to feed his backs.

going, they were happy to stick to their limited brief. They mostly attacked the short side of the pack, but they did not lack in Irish territory, with the courageous Young burrowing away close to the forwards or Cooper chipping through towards the corner, or, sometimes, Cohen putting in some measured, longer kicks. Once England had weathered the opening storm, they rarely looked like losing.

In that period, when Duggan briefly tried the tail of the line-out, the masterful Cohen, who had been a dummying break but he also missed a kickable penalty. In the second quarter, when England's attack was in a clear, broke a renewed Irish advantage by darting clear of a ruck on his own line and McGrath ruined an attempt to open up the Irish wingman with a poor feed from scrumage.

In the second half, Gibson threatened early danger with a perfect kick towards the post. Later, when Ireland had the luxury of two consecutive winning runs, Siemen's instant tackle on Wilson scotched the second move and a well-timed strike from Cohen, followed by a clear pass to a promising kick up the touchline from McGrath.

The Irish backs, sometimes aligned too flat and, with Mr. Duggan's handling and passing not impeccable, made no headway against a superb Irish defence. Wilson, who had a secure and

stylish game at full back, could never free his wings. It was a surprise that Ireland did not attempt to put more pressure on the English pack, but they did not lack in Irish territory, with the courageous Young burrowing away close to the forwards or Cooper chipping through towards the corner, or, sometimes, Cohen putting in some measured, longer kicks. Once England had weathered the opening storm, they rarely looked like losing.

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The England pack, in which Neary confirmed tirelessly to the tight pattern, established a useful side in the tight (Wheeler taking the heads 2-0), a progressive superiority in the mauls and a surprising advantage at the line-out. In that department, I made the first half count from the decisive throw, 18-7 in their favour, and Utley, given much freedom at the ball, won as much ball as Horton and Beaumont. This redoubtable pack has strength, skill, spirit and stamina. But has it the pace to cope with France?

One day Cooper will string it all together in a fantastic display but this, overall, was as effective as any of his matches for England. So it was, too, for Cohen, who on one occasion in the first half might have moved good rucked ball rather than kicking it. A dummying scissors by Cooper with both Cohen and Cohen, who had been a dummying break but he also missed a kickable penalty. In the second quarter, when England's attack was in a clear, broke a renewed Irish advantage by darting clear of a ruck on his own line and McGrath ruined an attempt to open up the Irish wingman with a poor feed from scrumage.

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## International table

England	France	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10

## Keeping the fidgety French selectors still

From Richard Streeton  
Paris, Feb 6

Only France's own mistakes prevented them from beating Wales more emphatically here yesterday when they showed nearly all the brute strength, tactical thrust and adventure, in a gripping match. Wales had their brief moments in counter-attack, but chiefly their role was reduced to courageous and dogged survival as France won by a goal, two penalty goals and a try (16 pts) against three penalties (9).

Whether this proves to be France's year in the international championship and, in the time honoured phrase, an end of an era for Wales, it might be fractionally premature to say. Certainly France's visit to Twickenham a week on Saturday, after beating England last week, is a challenge that England have now won two matches through forward strength, assumes a significance which would never have been envisaged before Christmas. France name their side to play England on Wednesday and even their selectors, the most unlikely to tamper greatly with yesterday's impressive combination.

There are four weeks before Wales play their next international match, which is against England in Cardiff on March 5. Yesterday's setback has to be remembered in conjunction with the previous two matches against Ireland last month, albeit in a game which was won. Obviously long days of deep appraisal are ahead and possibly brave decisions required at the end of them.

It has become obvious that the resuscitated Welsh pack are not yet correctly structured and Squire's future must be in doubt. The

availability of Wheel and possibly Trevor Evans, and an acceptance that O'Donnell's talents must be used, are among the factors to be sorted out. Poor Edwards for the second match running did not get the best of the selectors, but for the second match in succession, therefore, by his standards, he had a subdued time.

Many of the virtues in this splendid display by France tended to emphasize the Welsh disappointment, even though it must never be forgotten that the French, where it mattered, were mostly heavier, more powerful, and more determined. France won an overwhelming share of the possession; Romeu's diagonal kicking ahead between the full back and wing threw the Welsh defence into confusion; and above all, that French knack for the unorthodox switch in direction was seldom far away.

France, as always seemed likely in advance, won all the important lineout balls with Quinnell, just occasionally, near the front, intercepting the sequence of French attacks. In the first half, I formed the impression that the French did not line up in the same formation as in the first half. They seemed to be more often than not, and later seemed to act as scrum half as frequently as Fouroux did. Aguirre's arrivals in the line were not as good as the previous ones, some of the French handling in midfield remained shaky, which was why they did not score more.

Fouroux and J. P. R. Williams were the only players to start the match with their socks rolled down, and metaphorically it could be seen as the rugby equivalent of having one's sleeves rolled up.

both achieved a higher workload than anyone else on their sides. Fouroux's early passing was not always on target, though this was not his fault. His main contribution came as a strategist. The way he calmed down his forwards in these more wonderful moments was impressive.

Basistie, the No. 8, Imbernon, Palme and Papepierre, to single out the four players who caused the most mayhem in the rucks and mauls are magnificent performers, but there were incidents when my sympathy was with the referee just as much as with their opponents. Mr. Hovis, I felt, handled what could have been an inflammatory match well, with France, possibly, the most noticeable barrier away from the scrum.

From the outset the pattern was set, with France using their easily gained possession to attack, and Wales, in turn, being forced to play defensively. Fenwick another penalty goal from short range and an offside infringement allowed Romeu one of his best tries. He was able to cut loose and for this Wales earn credit. Soon, though, somebody is going to be devastated by the French XV. The French XV, in fact, was a formidable team. D. 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Muldoon... if Sea Pigeon...

# Francis called into weakened England party

Francis called into weakened England party... cover in time. Mr. Revie also said he had asked Watson, of Manchester City, to join the party because of the number of defenders under treatment.

Francis is the latest in the series of forwards Mr. Revie has tried to turn into play. The club's defence is the effective and reliable international goalkeeper. The great hope is that Francis can succeed where several others have failed in the international game.



David Watson... key man in Manchester City's defence.

## Ierland's young show promise

Ierland's young show promise... Rimmer made an instinctive save from a point-blank volley by a young man squeezed his way along the left byline, only to see his efforts neutralized by a desperate clearance.

## Stoke City now a long shot for relegation

Stoke City now a long shot for relegation... Manchester City's unbeaten sequence of 14 games was due to expire at the Victoria Ground on Saturday.

## Crucial intervention puts down Bolton

Crucial intervention puts down Bolton... The Den, which was never one of football's stately homes, is going through what managers with strong opinions call "transition".

## pool's stride would down grindstone

pool's stride would down grindstone... keeper, and Burns caught it just in time to squeeze in his shot by a whole.

## Wolves one of two most likely promotion teams

Wolves one of two most likely promotion teams... It would be a good thing to see Wolverhampton Wanderers return to the first division in this, their centenary season.

# Randall's spectacular sideshow livens up a dull production

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent, Indore, Feb 6... Much of today's play in the match between MCC and Bombay, the regional champions, made chess by correspondence seem an exciting sport.

played as Brearley does, correctly and conscientiously, Randall scored 20 in the last over yesterday, just to show that the ball still can be hit.

He went in at No 3 yesterday and had much bowling scope today. The grass is said to be fast, displaying from the Bombay pitch.

## Middle order batsmen deny Pakistan their victory

Middle order batsmen deny Pakistan their victory... St John's, Antigua, Feb 6.—Sound middle-order batting by the Leeward Islands enabled them to fend off the Pakistani batsmen who opened instead of Majid Khan, in a lot of trouble.

## Greg Chappell boosts Australians

Greg Chappell boosts Australians... Wellington, Feb 6.—Greg Chappell hit 130 out in an unbeaten 135 minutes, in all.

## Twisted ankle leads to loss of vital rubber

Twisted ankle leads to loss of vital rubber... By Our Real Tennis Correspondent... Winchester, with Howard Angus, Alan Lovell and Peter Seabrook, retained the Henry Leif Cup for real tennis at Queen's Club yesterday.

## Boxing Conteh show will go on despite Cuello calling off

Boxing Conteh show will go on despite Cuello calling off... Miguel Cuello, the Argentine lightweight who was due to box John Conteh for the world title at Liverpool stadium on March 5, pulled out yesterday.

## Table tennis Douglas beaten in final by West German

Table tennis Douglas beaten in final by West German... Desmond Douglas, England's top table tennis player, fell at the last hurdle in the men's singles final of the Welsh open championship at Cardiff yesterday.

Results and tables for various football leagues including Second division, Third division, and Fourth division.

Results and tables for various football leagues including Scottish first division and Scottish second division.

Results and tables for various football leagues including European leagues and Southern League.

## Skating Stenmark first to win five in succession

Skating Stenmark first to win five in succession... St. Anton, Austria, Feb 6.—Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden became the first skier to win five World Cup slalom races in a row.

## Motor racing U S trio triumph in Daytona endurance race

Motor racing U S trio triumph in Daytona endurance race... Daytona Beach, Florida, Feb 6.—A Porsche Carrera, co-driven by the 1975-1976 winner, Hurley Haywood and two fellow Americans, John Gurney and Dave Helms, took over the lead with three hours and three minutes remaining.

## Bobsleigh Nehmer holds early lead to keep title

Bobsleigh Nehmer holds early lead to keep title... St. Moritz, Feb 6.—Melinar Nehmer, an East German army officer, retained his world four-man bobs title here today, although beaten in the third and fourth runs by Switzerland's No 2.

Latest European snow reports table with columns for Depth, Conditions, and Weather.



1000



# The Year Ahead: Commercial and Industrial Property

## Is London really running out of office space?



surprising degree of unanimity about the property market for 1977. It is taken as an axiom in the sector that commercial and industrial rentally outstrip supply, consequent rise in rents values will, thanks to the creating new space, spark a boom. No one, however, than a continued stability-market this year.

150 million sq ft of net usable office space accounts for two-fifths of the country's entire office market, has seen rents remain in the past six months at levels last seen in 1970-71. An analysis of rent statistics carried out by stock-brokers Panmure Gordon shows that current asking rents of around £12 a sq ft in the City of London are 60 per cent below peak values in early 1974. In the West End current rents of £8 a sq ft for prime office space stand against the £14 a sq ft asked, and occasionally obtained, three years ago. The great leap forward in rents in the early 1970s has, therefore, been completely wiped out.

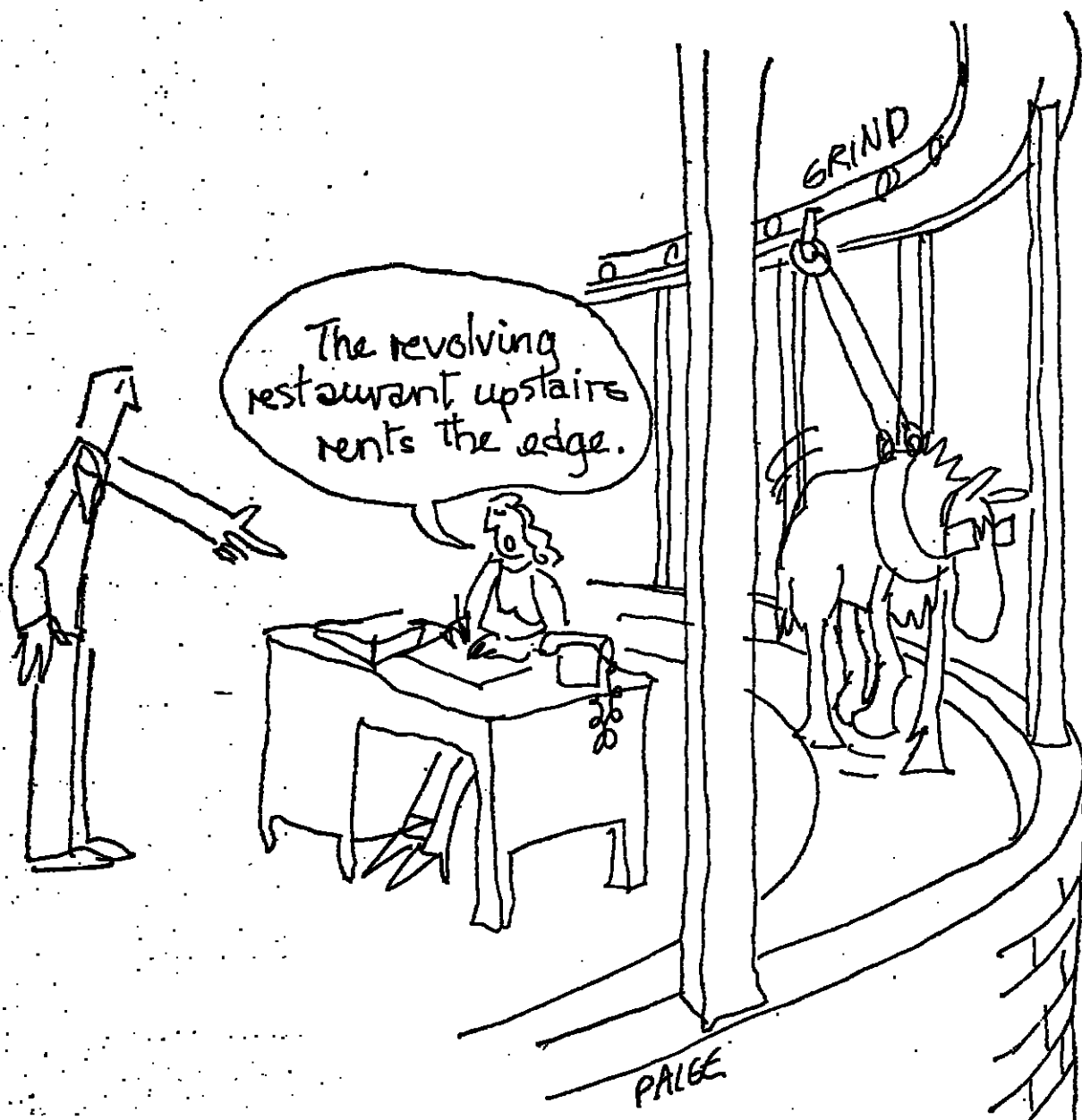
Even after this crash in rent levels the broker's statistics show that City rents have maintained an overall rise

of 500 per cent since 1960 and that West End rents have risen 433 per cent in the same period. An analysis of the supply and demand of demand for office space towards the end of the decade suggests that this underlying upward curve in rents will soon reassert itself.

A sluggish economy, an unemployment rate of 6 per cent and rising, and public sector spending cuts involving reductions in local authority and central government staffs add up to a relatively weak demand for offices. While on the other side of the demand-supply equation there are still offices under construction bringing a significant, if declining inflow of new space onto the letting market. And the market with an historically high percentage of vacant space, has been forced to accept the sharp downturn in asking rents of recent years. This imbalance of supply over demand is, however, slowly disappearing.

Market research work carried out by estate agents Richard Ellis, based on a conservative forecast of a 2 per cent annual growth in employment in the financial services sector, shows that in the City of London there could be an actual space famine by 1979.

The agents show that the annual take-up of space increased from 13 million sq ft in 1974 and 1975 to 21 million sq ft last year. And they forecast a take-up of over 2.5 million in 1977. Against that the total amount of office space now available is shown as just over 5 million sq ft net. And the projected take-up of space to the end of the decade far outstrips the scheduled completion of offices. Only around 700,000 sq ft of new City offices



are due to be completed this year, under 1 million sq ft in 1978 and less than 200,000 sq ft in 1979. Unless there is a dramatic change in the financial climate and it becomes possible to initiate new development schemes within the next year or so, only a sudden and unexpected decline in demand for offices can prevent a City-wide space shortage before 1980.

The aggregate picture suggests that City rents, although now stable and beginning to rise in money terms, are unlikely to rise in real terms before mid-1978 or early 1979. But once the balance swings towards demand the pace of rent growth should be dramatic.

One of the problems of taking averages and in terms of general rent movements is that it ignores selective changes. And it is clear that in the key financial areas of London and for large modern office units the recovery in rents is already well underway.

London's industrial property market has not suffered either the over-supply problems or the consequent fall in rents seen with offices. Since before

the war politicians of one persuasion or another have been mesmerized by the idea of expelling manufacturing industry from London. By moving smoking factories to the development areas London's residential areas would be cleaner, and the declining industries of the north would be replaced. So went the theory, which was well enough until someone noticed that jobs went with the factories. Since London's entire population could not work in offices, not even in the labour intensive business generated by moving factories from the capital, there has been a sharp volte face, and the inner cities are open again to job creating factories.

Unfortunately thirty years of planning cannot be undone overnight, and as a result what little modern factory and warehouse space available within London is rented at premium rates. Even secondary industrial space that would be lucky to fetch 80p a sq ft in Newcastle or Southampton is let at £2 a sq ft or more. And multi-storey warehouse space has been let at just under £3 a sq ft in the inner London

boroughs, space that would be left to the weeds outside the capital.

The overall pattern for London industrial space shows even more impressive rent growth than prime offices, Panmure's statistics indicating a 540 per cent growth since 1960. But not all the effects of the recession have been avoided and last year saw a marginal decline in aggregate industrial rents, London's mass of small unit warehousing and factory space being hit by the flood of small business bankruptcies.

Nevertheless, the underlying pattern of rents for both office and industrial space in the capital is moving upwards again. While 1977 may not see any dramatic upsurge, the groundwork has been laid for a rent boom before 1980 and short of political intervention it is hard to see what can now prevent the market from picking up where it left off in the early 1970s.

John Brennan



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# The Year Ahead: Commercial and Industrial Property



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A DEVELOPMENT SITE  
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By 2nd April, 1977

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### Manchester's most exciting new offices

200,000 sq ft - new air conditioned offices.  
8 floors - available in suites from 5,200 sq ft.  
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## Wakefield House

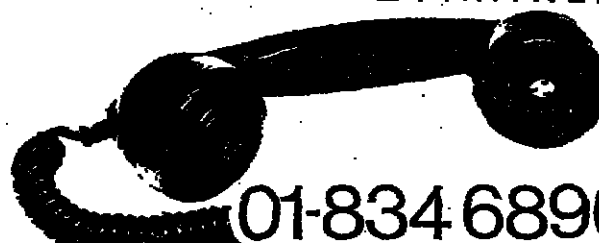
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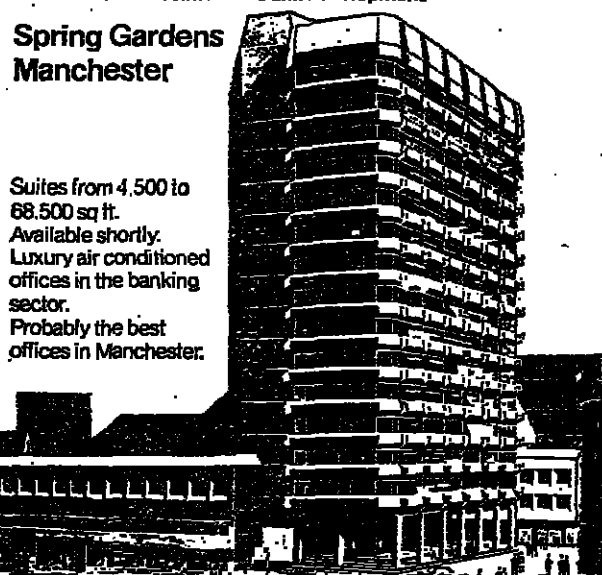
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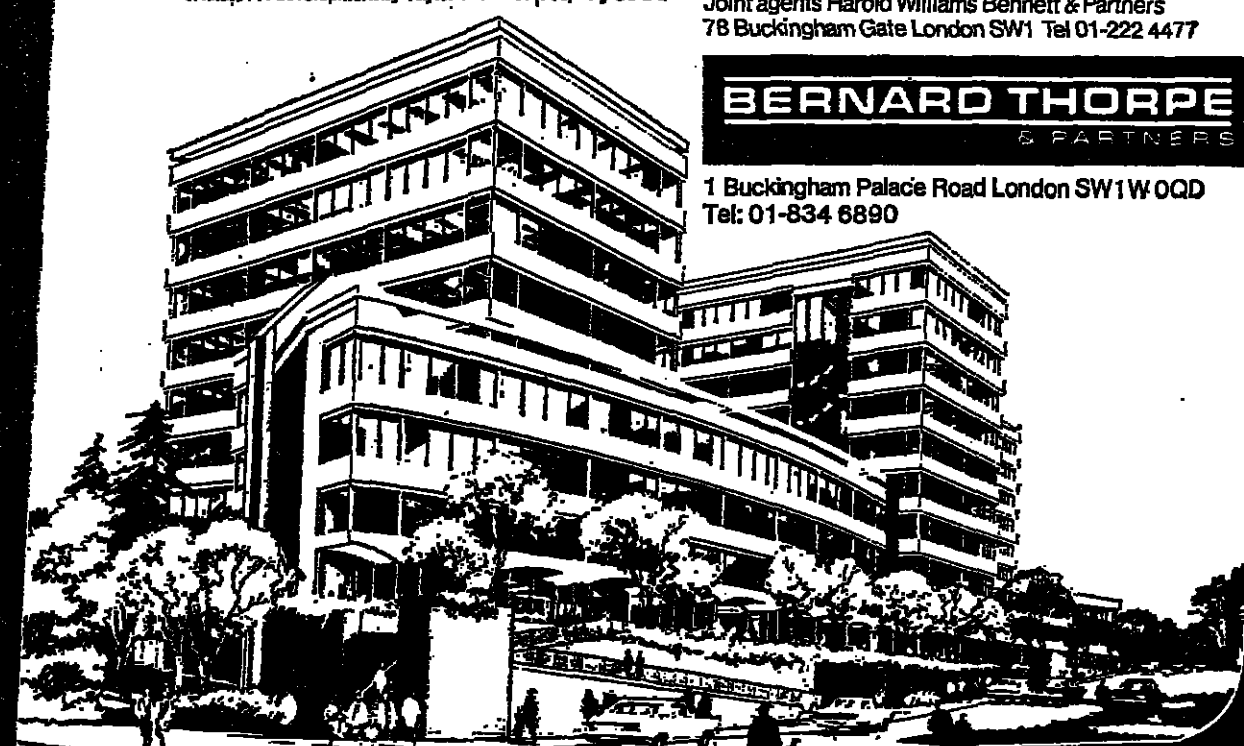
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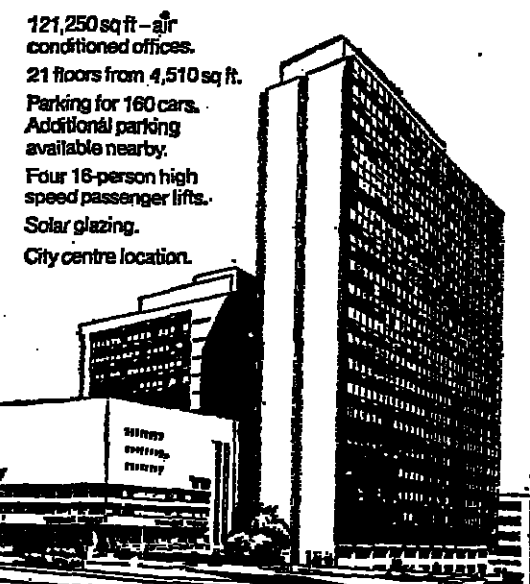
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Status \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
Accommodation \_\_\_\_\_  
Area sq ft/m<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_





## The Year Ahead: Commercial and Industrial Property



### The provincial gravy train reaches the end of the line

The Property Services Agency, which acts as the agent for government departments taking office and industrial space, has acquired a reputation as the property man's best friend in recent years. In 1975 and 1976, when the private sector was fighting to cut accommodation costs the PSA dominated the provincial office letting market, taking up space at a pace and at rates that brought a smile to even the most desperately over-borrowed developer. Now, however, the Chancellor has derailed the gravy train. Whitehall directives to the PSA and local authorities stress that reduced property expenditure is their first priority. And since the office take-up that followed the reorganiza-

tion of local authorities outside London has now been completed, and the phasing out of regional employment grants this year means a cut-back in projected private sector space requirements, 1977 looks a bleak year for the provincial markets.

The Location of Offices Bureau estimate that there is upwards of 19 million sq ft of unlet office space outside London, a vacancy rate of just under 8 per cent. A sizable amount of additional space is due to come onto the market in the next two years as schemes started in 1973 and 1974 reach completion, and so provincial rents, which held relatively stable in 1974 and 1975, could ease this year.

international companies into the Scottish east coast regions enabled the office markets in and around Aberdeen and Edinburgh to strengthen when central London rents were crashing down in 1974 and 1975. But the recession is catching up with Scotland and a recent survey by Strutt and Parker shows that with 307,000 sq ft of unlet space in Edinburgh and a further 318,000 sq ft of speculative space under construction, current prime rents of £4 to £4.50 a sq ft look vulnerable. The Scottish market may benefit if Devolution proposals generate the expected growth in local government jobs. But in the meantime the markets are static to weak although, exceptionally, modern space in Glasgow is now poised to break through the £2.50 to £3 a sq ft barrier.

In the main cities of the midlands and the north over-supply problems have resulted in concessionary rents and long-empty offices. Leicester, over-officed for some years now, and Birmingham are both suffering a marked decline in rent levels. Birmingham's modern office rents have

already slipped from the range £1.60 to £3 a sq ft depending on location and building quality in 1975 to between £1.30 and £2.50 a sq ft last year. Rents in Nottingham, Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester appear to have stabilized with top rates of £2; £2.50; £4 and £3.80 a sq ft respectively. In Bristol, one of the provincial boom towns of the past decade, the relocation of major insurance company administrative offices and government departments has long since absorbed all but two of the city's major office schemes. Their size is such that the vacant space has no impact on the demand for smaller units which, helped by the introduction of high speed trains on the Bristol-London line earlier this year, keeps rents up in the £1.75 to £3 range.

In the south east, London's over-spill areas have been hit by the fall in central London rents. Companies have been able to renegotiate leases at rates which make relocation unnecessary. And in Savills' latest market review the agents report that Croydon rents, which usually set the pace for the overspill towns, have fallen from a peak of £7 a sq ft to current asking rents as low as £4.50 a sq ft. Elsewhere in the south east rents have stabilized at around £2 a sq ft for modern space and £3 a sq ft for air conditioned offices rising to just under £4 a sq ft in the tight Southampton market and as high as £5 a sq ft in one instance in Brighton, where there is now a dearth of well-located larger units.

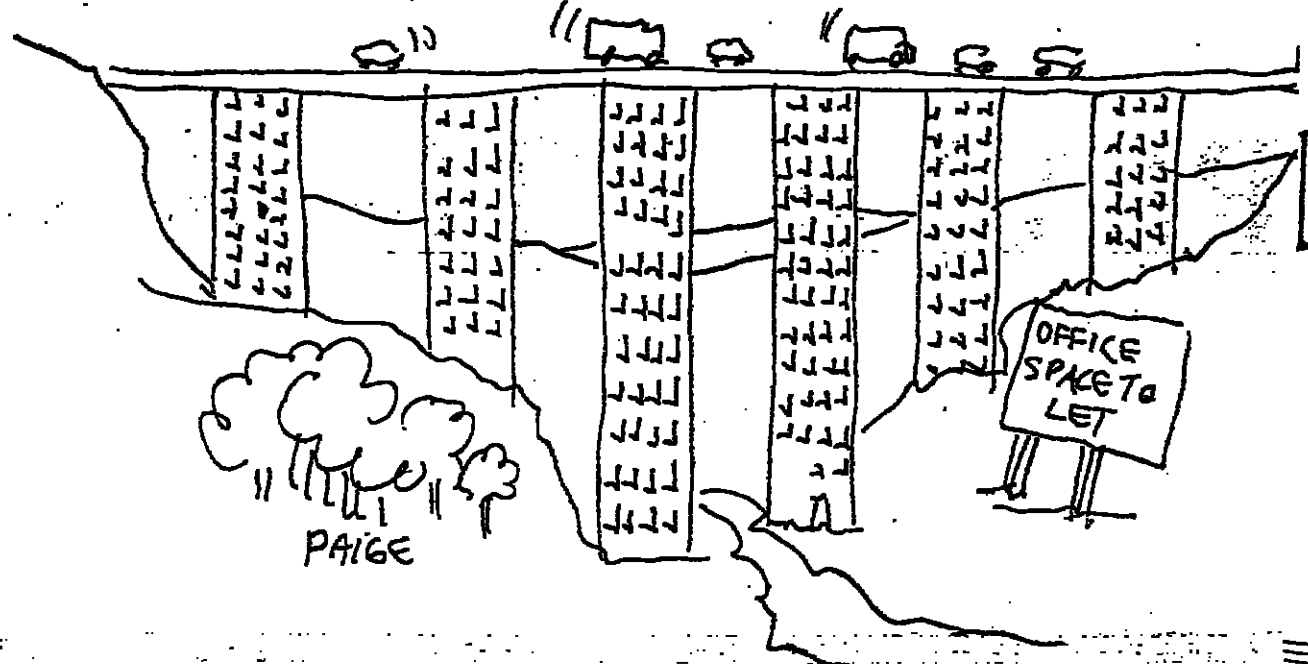
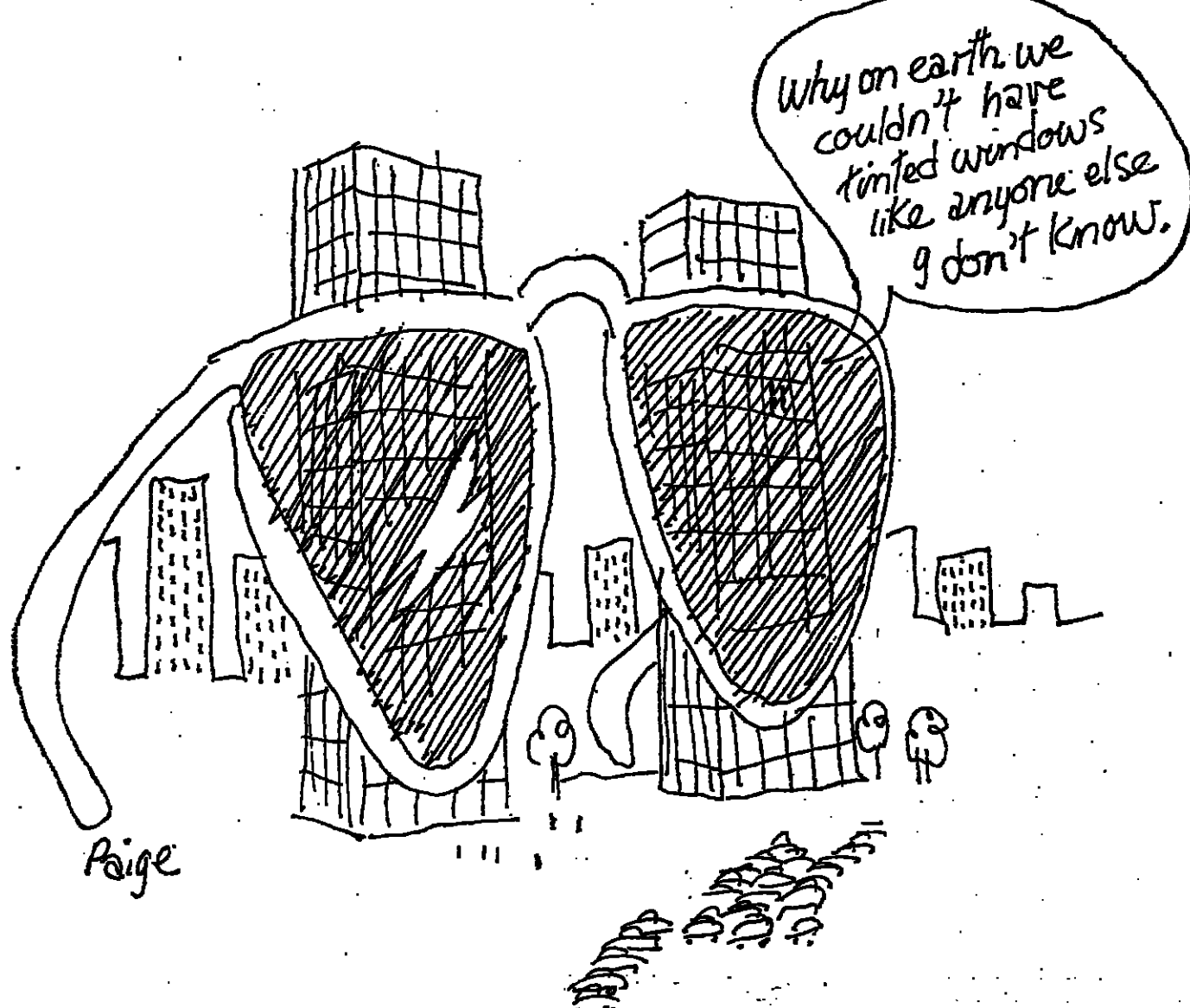
Because of the development economics of provincial office schemes, with their relatively low site costs and more direct relationship to building costs than London projects, static or declining rents against a near three-fold increase in construction costs

since 1970 mean that few new schemes would now be initiated even if development finance were available. In the long run, therefore, demand will no doubt catch up with supply even in the heavily over-officed midlands. But for much of the provincial market it will be a very long run.

The picture for industrial property is considerably brighter. Although King & Co's industrial survey shows that there is some 80 million sq ft of unused factory and warehouse space available around the country, that represents only 2.2 per cent of the total. And a further breakdown of the figures would show that a substantial proportion of the empty space is made up of older, multi-storey space away from the new prime locations linked

to the motorway system. The building cycle of industrial development means that space can be produced in line with demand than office yet, even with an apparent capacity problem the industrial sector have been the only section to expand output in years. Their confidence in the future recovery in demand for purpose-built factories and was shared by most of the leading agents. A selective weakening of rents is possible this year particularly in the hard hit area midlands and the north. But it looks as though the least active sector of the market in the short term will be the first off the mark to pick up again.

John B.



CITY OF LONDON

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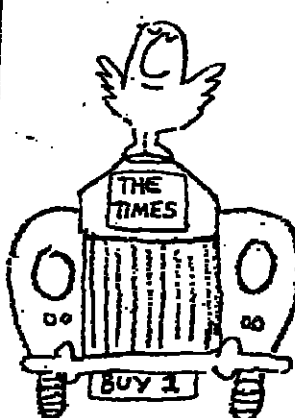
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David Steel

# The Commons disaster threatening the devolution Bill may be the best thing that could happen to it

The Government's devolution Bill is fast running into the quicksands of Commons procedure, with a solid core of Tory and Labour MPs doing their utmost to ensure that it sinks in so deeply that it never sees the House of Lords, let alone the Royal Assent. In addition, there is a large body of uncommitted opinion in the House which, as the debates have progressed, has been driven steadily to the conclusion that this is an unworkable Bill as it stands.

The Government's reflex action was to look at a guillotine as the way out. They have been forced to take the extraordinary tactic of offering a bogus referendum to entice sufficient parliamentary support for their timetable motion. The guillotine will mark one more example of how fundamentally misconceived is the Government's whole approach to devolution. While previously eschewing any inter-party discussion on substantive policy, they will now happily talk to all and sundry on the topic of an imposed timetable. Fundamental changes in the constitutional relationship of Scotland and Wales to the United Kingdom are being attempted through the normal machinery

of parliamentary politics and the ministers in charge, Messrs Foot and Smith, are but recent converts to the whole idea. The much vaunted flexibility of the British constitution cloaks the rigid inflexibility of Britain's political system.

However, the balance of parties and of opinion over the Bill in the Commons may yet force the Government to alter its approach. The Conservative opposition can unite, as it cannot over its attitude to the Bill itself, in refusing to help the Government over parliamentary timetabling. There is a hard core of some 30 or 40 anti-devolutionists on the Labour benches, on whose support the Government cannot rely.

The simple parliamentary arithmetic, therefore, is that a guillotine will only get through with some support from the 27 Liberal and Nationalist Members. The 11 Scottish Nationalists and the Welsh Nationalists have of course no interest in seeing a settlement that will work. They have every reason to assist the Government in legislating the present mish-mash on the grounds that without the Welsh and Scottish provisions, the Bill will be unworkable and add to their case for independence.

The 13 Liberals have a totally different interest—to secure something that will be

the foundation for a new constitutional framework in the United Kingdom. The Liberals will certainly be using that bargaining power to get the Government to think again about the present middle of expediency and gerrymandering that it is itself a little bit of the Scotland and Wales Bill. We voted for the second reading—a vote in principle—so that Parliament could get down to the details of what devolution should involve; but, as I said in the debate, on the clear understanding that the Bill would need to be improved. Despite 11 days and nights of debate, the inflexibility of the Government means that we have not been able to do so. Devolution cannot be decided in a game between the Government Whips and the Tory Unionists played by the rules of Erskine May. One of the earliest divisions took place on a voting amendment to exclude the Welsh and Scottish provisions, and it was only resisted by the votes of Liberals and others added to the Government lobby.

Specifically, Liberal MPs will be seeking certain major changes in the Bill as currently proposed, both as tests of the Government's willingness to compromise at all, and because without them devolution is liable to be either a farce or

the slippery road to separatism—or indeed each in turn.

First, the Government must look again at the disastrous mixture of accountability and irresponsibility proposed for the new Scottish and Welsh Executives. It is this explosive mixture which has rightly given rise to the most reasoned speeches against the Bill in the Commons. If the Bill is not changed fundamentally, Scotland and Wales will each have elected governments, replete with mandates and a plethora of electoral promises and armed with a marvellous set of excuses for failure. With Westminster (or, rather, Whitehall) firing the assembly's expenses, a Scottish Executive can promise a journey to heaven—and blame England when there is no money to pay the travelling expenses. The assemblies must have a much clearer definition of powers and increased responsibilities over industrial and economic matters.

The looming presence of the Welsh and Scottish Secretaries of State, able to check, question or reverse what Wales or Scotland's own governments want to do, will irritate the Welsh and Scottish members of the House. Their presence in the Cabinet will be a further cause of jealousy for the under-represented English regions, and

their offices another layer of bureaucracy.

As *The Sunday Times* pointed out recently, what should be an exercise in producing fewer government bureaucrats, will actually create more. Devolution can only be expected to work effectively when there is a direct relationship between political accountability and financial responsibility, between public money spent and taxes raised; and when the Scottish and Welsh Secretaries have been declared redundant.

Second, if the Scottish and Welsh people are not to be allowed to elect democratically representative assemblies, why have them? The Government's obstinate insistence in trying to impose a variant of the Westminster voting system over nothing but any concern about democracy, Scotland, or Wales, and everything to the fears that the aristocracy had before 1832. The proportional election system was almost the sole means of ensuring that the House of Commons was representative of the whole country, and as its constituent document before Christmas demonstrated, has yet to start thinking about how England, or the various English regions, will fit in. It fails to seize the opportunity to change the House of Lords into an elected body representing the different parts of the United Kingdom and

when he moved the proportional representation amendment recently, next time it could be a massive majority for the Tory minority in Scotland and the Nationalist minority. The House of Lords seems likely to ask the Commons to think again about this. It is too much to ask that the Government agree to enter into all-party talks about what would be the most appropriate voting system for the new assemblies?

But our criticism of the Government's approach goes far beyond these and other specific changes. We want to see a new political contract between the various nations and regions which make up the United Kingdom, a new system by which they agree upon what they can best decide in common for the whole country, and what is better devolved. The Government is floundering towards a massive breakup of the present centralized system of government with no clear idea of what the new system will be, and as its constituent document before Christmas demonstrated, has yet to start thinking about how England, or the various English regions, will fit in. It fails to seize the opportunity to change the House of Lords into an elected body representing the different parts of the United Kingdom and

including those elected to the European Parliament. Yet through this Bill, conceived in electoral expediency in 1974 and nurtured by the midwives of Whitehall, who hate the very idea of real devolution, the Government is seeking to dot the i's and cross the t's of new constitutional structures for Scotland and Wales. It is the worst way to approach the question.

The Liberal Party does have a view of where we should be heading—an overall structure of government for Britain along federal lines. We do not insist on that particular pattern. But we will insist that the Government must rescue its proposals not by a timetabling manoeuvre, but by subjecting them to a much wider and more free debate. Why should we not adopt the procedure we have used many times in colonial situations and in Northern Ireland—a constitutional convention of the interested parties to see whether agreement can be reached on the fundamentals of a new constitutional order? We suggested this many months ago. The election of representatives to such a convention would enable a more detailed public debate on the various solutions to take place than a rubber stamp "referendum".

The Conservatives have to come up with constructive proposals. Nationalists would have to evolve themselves in harmony with the rest of Britain—or opt to refuse to take part in a settlement which meets the aspirations of Scots and Welsh. The regions would be engaged in the debate and come to the fact of devolution. Scotland and Wales would participate. Or, at least, the political parties, brought in.

For the moment, an approach would be desirable only.

But if the Government headed belief that its pi-concession must be through Parliament, then the Bill is the wrong way to go. It is a matter of time, then perhaps we look at such a fund as different and more de-way of dealing with our constitutional change.

The author, leader of the Liberal Party, is MP for Selkirk and Peebles.

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## Ulster's latest battleground is in court

Strasbourg Events which took place more than five years ago in a white-walled courtroom in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights, have taken on the dimensions of a battle between two states since the European Human Rights Convention came into force. The public hearing will be the culmination of an increasingly bitter dispute between the British and Irish Governments over the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland during the violent aftermath of the introduction of internment. Since then, the violence has continued, but almost every other factor has changed, including the release in late 1975 of the last detainee. The case has already cost Irish and British taxpayers more than £300,000, as well as acting as a constant irritant to diplomatic relations and badly damaging Britain's reputation abroad. Over 100 witnesses have appeared in secret before the European Commission of Human Rights which issued its report for their names from its report for

fear that it would become an assassination list. It is accompanied by a verbatim record of evidence, running to 14 volumes, which is still unpublished.

Although the case embraces many aspects of the Northern Ireland crisis, the issue which has dominated public interest is the question of the five sensory deprivation techniques against suspected IRA members. The subjects—or "guinea pigs" as they are now known—were hooded, deafened by white noise, forced to eat and urinate in plastic bags and placed on severely restricted diets. All these methods were dropped in 1972 and 12 of the 14 victims have received compensation totalling more than £150,000.

Since this report the British are furious that the matter is still being pursued while the Irish remain confident their stand will be exonerated by the court's 18 judges. "We are more concerned in ensuring that no one is tortured in 1978 than proving people were in 1971," said one Dublin official. The likely outcome of the hearing has already been foreshadowed in the Commission report published last year after which evidence by Irish sources. Although only given the status

of an opinion, the findings carry great weight with the court which will have no opportunity to hear first-hand evidence on the same facts.

The crucial section in the document of 500 closely-typed pages, ruled that the controversial techniques constituted not only inhuman and degrading treatment, but also torture in breach of Article 3 of the Convention. Explaining this damaging conclusion, the Commission stated: "The systematic application of the techniques for the purpose of inducing a person to give information shows a clear resemblance to those methods of systematic torture which have been known over the ages. Although the five techniques... might not necessarily cause any severe after-effects, the Commission sees them as a modern system of torture falling into the same category as those systems which have been applied in previous times as a means of obtaining information and confessions."

Quite to what extent the bizarre atmosphere of the interrogation centres will be revealed in court is still open to question and will depend on whether the judges exercise their power to call witnesses from the British security forces. When these men were flown

by the RAF to a remote Norwegian air base to appear before the Commission in May, 1974, they all flatly refused, on government instructions, to answer any question about the methods. This infuriated the Commissioners and added to the reputation for stone-walling which Britain has earned during the troubled progress of the case.

Behind the dry and complex legal arguments certain to dominate the Strasbourg hearings will lie the professional futures of the policemen and soldiers involved in the allegations and still operating in Northern Ireland—some now promoted to senior positions.

The Irish Republic authorities, backed by pro-republican groups will be pressing for action to be taken against them. The British Government is determined to resist calls for prosecution, demotion or discipline, but officials have been told that this could be hard in the light of a judgment which came down heavily against Britain. "The whole case is breaking new ground," explained one European lawyer. "No one can accurately predict the outcome."

Christopher Walker

## How the Basques could block the way to democracy in Spain

As if the Spanish Government has not got enough on its plate with the dramatic upsurge in political violence, Basques are steadily increasing their demands for autonomy with ominous threats.

"The Government in Madrid must give us autonomy if it wants to govern," Basque nationalist Ramon Sota told me during my ten-day trip to the Basque country in January. Sota is no political extremist. He comes from one of the wealthiest families in the Basque country and is a member of the Basque Nationalist Party.

"If the government does not give us autonomy then there will be a total disrespect for it with civil and even military resistance from the younger elements of our society who refuse to accept the status quo. The Government realizes this and this is why it seems willing to negotiate."

In December's national referendum on the Suarez Government's political reforms there was an average abstention rate in the four Spanish Basque provinces of 37 per cent compared to the national average of 25 per cent. In Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya, the two large industrial provinces, the rate was 55 and 43 respectively. These very high figures are far higher than the average European norm of abstention in political issues, reflected not just a vote against the anti-democratic way in which the referendum was conducted, but much more the anti-Madrid separatist feeling.

When the Spanish Civil War broke the Basque country took the republican side on the whole, quickly fell to General Franco's nationalists. Their autonomy, established in all the provinces—except Navarra, which was Carlist controlled—was abolished. While General Franco was in power the firm hold over the country was never relaxed and any sign of Basque nationalism was swiftly and fiercely suppressed.

The Basque language, which is unique, was banned for official purposes and the red, white and green Ikurrina, the Basque Nationalist Party's flag, adopted as the country's symbol, was illegal. When General Franco died Basques in Guipuzcoa, the town destroyed by Hitler's Condor Legion in 1937 and later immortalized by Picasso, toasted the dictator's death with champagne and honked their horns. Such was, and is the anti-foreign feeling, intensifying more in the Basque country than in any other region in Spain.

Since then the Suarez Government has gone some way towards defusing the intense feelings of the Basques by legalising the use of the flag this month and promising to examine the language problem. Basques want their language to be taught in state schools and not just in private ones along with Castilian, the mother tongue. When the Ikurrina was raised in San Sebastian in the middle of January for the first time in 40 years, there were unbelievable emotional scenes as thousands leapt for joy, many dewy eyed like an old man who told me: "You don't know how much we have suffered for this."

One Basque in Orizaba raised the same Ikurrina in the town hall which he pulled down during the Civil War. He kept the moth-eaten flag carefully wrapped up in his home until this great day. The flag-raising rally, a member of the party, is in the Opposition's negotiating team with the Government.

Mr Sota and other members have a party propaganda film which they take around, called *Sons of Guerrilla*. The film ends with the words "the war is not over for us". The party also has a choir, the Bizkaitarra, which recently recorded an LP in Paris because it could not do so in Spain. It has also issued two illegal singles for almost £2 each. One of them is an old war song with the lyrics "we are soldiers of Euzkadi (the Basque country) to give liberty to our country."

Another problem is that the police and paramilitary civil guards are still tending to act the way they did under General Franco when no questions were asked. Demonstrations have been violently crushed and arrested political suspects are sometimes severely maltreated as Basque lawyers told me.

Although Interior Minister Rodolfo Martin Villa has said that the Ikurrina can now be flown, without people running the risk of persecution, some sectors of the police still seem to be taking the law into their hands. More than once while I was in the Basque country I heard of police victimising flag bearers. On the same night as the flag-raising in San Sebastian a Basque coming into the city with a flag was stopped and the windows of his car smashed.

As a result of this kind of repression even non-Basques in the area, who make up almost half the labour force (emigration from the poorer parts of Spain to the Basque country has been considerable) have become identified with the autonomy move.

The sympathy expressed for ETA is surprising, but not so much when viewed in the context of the widespread anti-Madrid feelings. While a minor factor in the Basque country, works in a kitchen factory driving a forklift. His wife is Basque and said: "Although I still my heart that I am Castilian, I have inevitably become tied with the problem. He belongs to a strictly trade union."

Basques want control of police and of the fiscal as well as administrative independence from Madrid, about a third of the tax in the Basque country invested in the area.

The Basque Nationalist wants autonomy within federal system and an national electoral force to have to take account views. ETA is calling over three French Basque p over the border to join the four Basque ones in a complete independence. The idea is totally impractical apart from questions of would mean either straggling rid of the from France.

It is Utopian to expect to achieve independence. Euzkadi, one of the n of the pro-independence movement. Mr Euzkadi know about extremes 1970 he set fire to him jumped off a balcony of General Franco. "Basque Euzkadi (Basque for 'long live Basque country') and uia, Guerrilla."

He was 16 days in and four years in pris. If, as may happen, t democratically elected ment grants some t autonomy along the t that they enjoyed bel Civil War, then this take the wind out of t of ETA. But if the Gov refuses to give in, th only leave people, all ably less of them, still their moral support.

The armed forces h is apparently against "breaking up" of Sp believes that once auto granted to one region, like Catalonia will try t suit.

The Basque autonom is going to be a major f for the next Governu no matter what type of ment it is, it will e unless it concedes som nomy.

A typical example is Santiago Martinez who village in the provi Cuenca 13 years ago in the Basque country, works in a kitchen factory driving a forklift. His wife is Basque and said: "Although I still my heart that I am Castilian, I have inevitably become tied with the problem. He belongs to a strictly trade union."

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William Cl

## The Mafia is not what it used to be

Continuing our occasional series on new words and new meanings: Whenever two or three are gathered together these days, for even the most innocuous purpose, they run the risk of finding themselves defamed by some commentator as a Mafia. Films like *The Godfather* have glamorized and vulgarized the Italian secret and criminal society of exceedingly unglamorous and peculiar people, and turned its name into a vogue epithet. So the name of a society of predatory and ruthless criminals is applied indiscriminately to any secret or exclusive society, or to any closed circle or clique; and to any group of people of similar interests or backgrounds prominent or powerful in a particular field or enterprise.

There need be no hint of criminality in the association. Described by the new usage as a Mafia, though the description is often, though not invariably, mildly uncomplimentary. John F. Kennedy was said to have filled the White House with an Irish Mafia, criminal in the sense that the Mafia was immediately glorified to death by the tramping hoofs of a shousand ready backs. Sour remarks are passed about "the contem-

porary literary Mafia", usually by people whose books have been poorly received or not reviewed at all.

According to the popular modern usage there are an academic Mafia, a mental-health Mafia, numerous militant Marxist Mafia with rules and beliefs of inextinguishable complexity, a modern composers' Mafia dedicated to monotony and the production of new noises, a Mafia of muckrakers among ultra-right Tories as well as ultra-left Socialists, a Labour Party Mafia, which is over-sensitive about the TUC, an Australian Mafia as *The Sunday Times* wrote, and a few recent discoveries of the secret societies in our midst.

The use occurs quite well with one popular but extravagant modern view of society as a gigantic conspiracy and network of interlocking conspiracies, which must bug under everybody's bed, and everybody plotting against everybody else. The Establishment has suffered a similar fate of being debauched by the phrase "literary Mafia", one of the phrases "literary Mafia" described by the phrase "the whole tribe of professional publicists and vulgarizers who today imagine that a little ill-will entitles

them to comment on public affairs".

The hierarchical society of criminals called the Mafia arose as a resistance movement in Sicily in the thirteenth century, and has flourished there for centuries because a succession of despotic foreign governments alienated the island's inhabitants, and made tolerable even the Mafia's perverted system of justice.

The name comes from a Sicilian dialect word for boldness, bluster, and swagger; and is probably derived from the Arabic word, *mayyah*, which means boasting. The Mafia's peculiar code of justice is based on *omertà*, the code of silence which demands humility coupled with a kind of male machismo that under no circumstances allows a mafioso recourse to legal authorities or any degree of co-operation with the law.

Sicilians and Italians who emigrated to North and South America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries took the Mafia along with their luggage; and in the United States it grew to be the largest and most powerful of the syndicated crime organizations, with a structure very similar to its Sicilian proto-

type. According to the FBI in recent years the organization has taken to calling itself by a wacky little euphemism, *Cosa Nostra*.

There is some hope that the Mafia may be dwindling to a disreputable and unimportant decline in the United States, partly because of the disappearance of the old-style, patriarchal bosses, and partly because Italian-Sicilian culture is at last emerging from its ghettos and becoming assimilated into the larger American society. There is some evidence that the Mafia is declining in Sicily also, though anything less than 700 years of silence which demands humility coupled with a kind of male machismo that under no circumstances allows a mafioso recourse to legal authorities or any degree of co-operation with the law.

Land reforms after the last war weakened its hold on the rural areas of central and western Sicily; and it has accordingly moved its attention to the cities, where it has been building enterprises in the urban areas. Its nefarious name thrives and has become internationalized, however, as a flabby catchword which is rapidly losing all its strong connotations, and coming to mean little more than clan. May the Mafia itself be as rapidly devolved as its name.

Philip Howard

## The Times Diary

### Taking the jubilee to the Afghans

If the mountain tribesmen of Afghanistan and the Kurds of Iraq are not already aware that this is Silver Jubilee year, they soon will be. The 300 members of the eighth Commonwealth Expedition, a sort of Gurdard Bound concert party, are this week making final preparations to bring the good news from Deal to Ootacamund with the aid of silver buses and a Jubilee song.

Comex has been travelling the overland route to India since 1965, taking the message of Commonwealth brotherhood to many a remote village on the way. This year's expedition, predominantly British but with contingents from Canada, Singapore and India and a guest party from the United States, will set out from the Royal Marine Barracks at Deal on Friday night for a four month, 13,000-mile goodwill trip to India and back, putting on a mukrika Gang Show wherever they stop.

The expedition is run like a military operation. Ten days training with the marines before departure includes, besides concert rehearsals, physical fitness

programmes under the eye of Commando instructors, and a 15-mile map reading exercise for the women, with a stop half way at a pub. When my reporter visited them on Friday, the drivers were getting the feel of their new buses round the parade ground and the mechanics had the floors up studying the engines.

It is costing about £110,000 to mount this expedition, most of it going on the custom-built silver buses. Lionel Gregory, the ex-Gurkha colonel who has organized all eight expeditions, excludes an old-fashioned romantic idealism about the Commonwealth.

"I believe in it passionately. It is a marvellous thing, provided that it is understood that it is based on a simple idea of friendship. A lot of the simple romance of this country has gone. There is no more magic; people no longer do simple things together, like singing. I believe that if there was more of this moving people around the world, we would all be much

happier. The Jubilee is a particularly appropriate vehicle for spreading this message."

For this year's 60 concerts, which tell the story of Comex in comedy and song, Gregory has written a Jubilee song called *Silver Train*. He thought it should be played over loudspeakers in the London underground, but did not receive a lot of support for the idea.

Most of the expedition members are aged between 20 and 40, and include police cadets, who navigate, trainee fire officers, who drive, apprentices and managers from industry, who load the coaches, and ordinary people who just happened to apply, and who seem to end up as cooks.

Avril Sharman, aged 29, from Bolton, read about the expedition in a newspaper, and gave up her job on the production line of a television factory to join the party. Her mother was a large, dark woman, but Avril had landed the extra responsibility of playing Jew's harp in the concert.

Robert Menage, a geologist and one of the 20 strong Northern Ireland contingent, will be a leader, and will play Irish reels and the spoons in the concert. "I thought £330 for four months was very cheap, cheaper than living at home. And it is nice to get away from Belfast for a while."

The trip has cost the Canadians more than anyone else, because of the extra distance and the waning pound. They had agreed to pay any extra costs arising from devolution. "That," said Colonel Gregory, "is the whole spirit of the thing, 'is the kind of Sahib-like conduct that makes a chap feel good'."

Some bagpipers piped for no clear reason, then Paul Rogers read the 25-year-old proclamation of the Queen's accession to the throne. Sir Frank Price, chairman of the British Waterways Board, said his aim in jubilee year was to get all the rowpats in the GLC area opened to the public.

Harrington took round an old loving cup, with burgundy in the top and port in the hinged bottom. Lord Ponsbury, chairman of the GLC, applied for it with several of the mayors, and I shared it with the Mayor of Brent.

It was an appropriate choice, since I was born in his borough—and, moreover, being shorter than he, I qualified for the port.

Brass Jubilee fever is not restricted to Britain. A junk dealer in Pennsylvania, Devon Smith, has presented the Queen with what he claims to be the largest brass band in the world. He thought it would be nice to give a token symbolizing the 24 towns and villages in America called Elizabeth, Elizabethtown, -ville,

Some peppy kings and queens, who seem to have adopted the jubilee as their own, were there to greet them, but only about 100 other people turned up, since the event had been poorly publicized.

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—borough or whatever to commemorate the jubilee, and knocked up the 30-inch key himself.

The Governor of Pennsylvania, which has four Elizabeth towns, has signed a certificate. A second secretary at the British Embassy in Washington took possession of the object on Friday and will forward it to Buckingham Palace.

Antecedents Debreit's, stud-book of the British monarchy and aristocracy since 1769, is celebrating the Silver Jubilee (as well as prospecting for new markets) by opening its genealogical services to Americans, Canadians, Australians, and others of British descent. Since John Debreit started work on his first pedigree, Debreit's has been open to Indians, Britons. Now, for its customary fee, it is opening an office in Winchester to conduct ancestry research for British kith and kin from overseas.

It offers to discover whether Americans and others are descended from blue-blooded aristocrats or red-blooded also. His principal research was on the Rugh-Peskett, whose main triumph was to have traced Edward Heath's ancestors—fishermen and farmers in the West Country.

Remarkable coincidences happened to him once he'd hurried to pick it up. It appears to be less than a poem written Queen in honour of St. Betjeman. Here it is:

In those off-days when Of being Queen's a dre

It fires me and inspires To have you as laureat

Five long years we've be You've penned little in

But I know how hard it is Just to get the words to Very seldom—hardly eve Has the muse inspired y

Will it be the golden ju Before she strikes again Don't take this as a con

For I'm not a Queen to t Though the press (it's) Say it's all a load of tri

From that look of dog Those eyes half-closed a I can tell what hell you Off you go then, back to

William Cl















**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
"Afore ye go"

# Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Jan 31. Dealings End, Feb 11. Contango Day, Feb 14. Settlement Day, Feb 22

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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BRITISH FUNDS										COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN										LOCAL AUTHORITIES										FOREIGN STOCKS										DOLLAR STOCKS										BANKS AND DISCOUNTS										C-E										WINE, SPIRITS AND DISTILLERIES										MINES										SHIPPING										FINANCIAL TRUSTS										MISCELLANEOUS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Maintaining impetus in the equity market

headlong rise during the equity market a week in line with jointed performance. It market trying to dial tactics on interest, just as in the gilt: prevailing mood in market is bullish, shares slightly less so. ple of week ago. urket has risen by cent from its 1976 per cent since the of the year. It now 120 barrier in FT 30 c terms which a year is insurmountable. lerying "pull" for t has been attributed a factors, notably oil and the predicted ace of payments sur- 1980s. But there are ous bridges to cross during the next months. Gilt is an important inasmuch now they have led p for equities. The s should continue to ay. And since gilt attractive on the iow this will help

ot count on any fun- with by the institu- equities at the gilt; with a reverse of around 7 points out of theory does a hold water. specific importance will be the negotia- third stages incomes the performance of there should be a of whether the plan can be delivered. On ut it can and that m agreed will look that should be good ket, especially if it Chancellor to make stions on dividend his Budget. for the economy and thus is more difficult. The new Carter n, troubled by the of the big freeze- s able to deliver stimulus that was all Street's froggy st week suggests s there are becom-

ss, there seems to imetus in the et for it to main- and trend. Fuelled vedge that balance e rarely look- corporate profits ain good that var issues are relatively, of course, by take- r, this market has to move convinc- an 420. an doubts turn out ounded and if a of future can be probable then 450 in re terms is within May. Beyond that, v pull being longer- ionic associations sion of 1978 which from an election, le the spectre of on should it seem e break out is un- ether towards the use three or the s over.

houses ized by nk ouse share prices t uniformly lower and last week, der. Until now they splendid run up for eks as it became at they had moved d otherwise length- books nicely in time ous capital profits cent fall in interest

1977 has started in the Bank of Eng- n in arbitrarily peg- um lending rate at : last week suggests 3 houses could be for rather choppy air problems arise place from the per- to-day shortage of he money markets



Mr. Alexander Ritchie, chairman of Union Discount: intolerable to make persisting running losses.

which has obliged the houses to borrow continuously from the Bank of England to fund their portfolios. Since the houses borrow from the Bank at MLR they make running losses on the part of their portfolios, such as Treasury bills, which yield less than their borrowing costs.

The houses' scope to switch their portfolios into other higher yielding assets is severely constrained by their need to hold certain eligible assets—Treasury bills and bank bills, for instance—which the Bank will accept as security against its loans. The necessity of the houses to hold such assets partly explains why both types of bill are yielding significantly less than other money market instruments.

It is against this background that the Bank of England's move becomes so painful. Friday's Treasury bill tender demonstrated once and for all that the Bank cannot control the short term money markets any longer through its traditional system of nods and winks. The discount houses may still conform to the Bank's wishes, but other buyers who have now become much more of a force are not so influenced. They ignored the signs that the Bank wanted to hold back the decline in rates and hid for bills in such a way that, under the normal formula, MLR would have fallen another quarter point to 11 3/4 per cent. Since the houses' bids were uncompetitive they once again got very few bills at the tender.

To raise their eligible assets, however, the houses still have to buy bills in the secondary market. This helps to keep bill rates down, and the net result is that, since their MLR-related borrowing costs are being held artificially high, the running losses on their bill holdings are becoming even bigger.

The houses are not yet complaining very loudly about this. It only because it is only the most recent Treasury bill issues that are so unprofitable and because the houses still think there are good capital profits yet to come in the shape of lower interest rates. But their objections could become much more vociferous if the Bank continues to peg MLR above its market level for very long. Mr. Alexander Ritchie, Union Discount's chairman, was pointing out in his annual report last week that it is intolerable in the long term for a discount house to make persisting running losses on its book.

### Composite Insurance Recovery potential

As the results reporting season of the major composite insurance companies draws near, the market appears temporarily mesmerised by the news of

severe weather conditions in the United States. The long-heralded underwriting recovery, loss-elimination in the United States market, currency inflation of overseas earnings and the resurgence in investment income, all factors expected to start showing through in 1976's results seem to have been forgotten in the face of blizzards in Buffalo. Stockbrokers Hoare Govett provides a timely reminder of the composites potential in its annual sector review.

Hoare argue that the prospect of 40 per cent earnings growth across the sector in 1977 and a possible further 20 per cent growth in 1978 is a persuasive case for the shares, particularly in view of their recent weakness.

Looking back on 1976 Hoare identifies the start of the recovery in US underwriting accounts, with losses for the seven leading composites cut from 1975's £117m to an estimated £53.8m. But of equal importance, they claim, is the impact on United Kingdom business of January's storm damage and later subsidence claims of £60m or more, claims pushing the sector's aggregate £34.5m into the red after 1976's £6.9m profit.

Elsewhere, Hoare expect higher European losses, covered by recovery in Australia and at least temporary recovery in Canada. For the individual companies Hoare forecast a recovery from 1975's £10.2m loss to a £44.4m pre-tax profit for Commercial Union; £34.7m after £26m for Eagle Star; £43m from £16.8m for General Accident and improvements from £49.6m to £54.7m for Guardian Royal Exchange; £18.2m to £25.5m for Phoenix; £22.7m to £74.5m for Royal and a marginal growth from £35.6m to £39.1m for Sun Alliance.

Analysing individual group earnings on the basis of estimated premium growth per share and of profits as a proportion of premiums, Hoare recommend Eagle Star and Phoenix as attractive at current levels.

The brokers feel that Commercial Union is fairly valued relative to others in the sector and that General Accident and Royal are undervalued against the rest of the equity market. Sun Alliance's large household insurance business and the possibility of unexpectedly high subsidence claims last year may hit its shares when the preliminary results are released. But any set back at that stage is seen as a buying signal.

It will then emerge whether or not a fight is to develop for LE&GT, for Guinness Peat, parent of merchant bank Guinness Mahon which manages the trust, has already submitted a bid of its own. A third bidder is also rumoured in the wings but may not be very serious. At the December year end LE&GT had a published net worth of 100p against a Guinness Peat paper bid valued at about 94p and a share price 12p up at 87p on Friday night.

Unlike the British Rail Pension Fund's bid for the Standard Trust, this one looks like a scarcely concealed rights issue as far as Guinness Peat is concerned. The effect would be to buttress further a balance sheet which, in the 12 months to April 30 last year, was much strengthened by the conversion of £9.7m of loan stock into equity, helping to lift shareholders' funds from £15.8m to £26.9m before goodwill of £6.3m, against group borrowings of almost £30m.

spoken member of the Government, he enjoys expressing views out of line with his Cabinet colleagues, whether it be over exchange rate policy, the building of the projected Gioia Tauro steelworks, or the security aspects of the Fiat deal with Libya. Now sparks—or perhaps sun-spots—are flying with the French over solar energy. Canada returned a few days ago from a conference of 22 countries in Nice after openly disagreeing with his French hosts. The conference of mainly Mediterranean nations was convened by his French opposite number to discuss the application of solar energy. It was all "a commercial marketing operation", said Donat, designed to promote French technology in the Mediterranean basin. In consequence of his attitude, no Italian has joined the permanent international secretariat set up by the conference under French representation Jean Claude Coll.

Beside France, Italy is the country in the region which has made most progress in the application of solar energy, and the Italians evidently feel that the French will do their best to keep them out of foreign markets, especially as the costs

For the past several weeks Mr Roy Hattersley, who is responsible for prices and consumer affairs, must have wished he had heeded the military maxim that time spent on reconnaissance is never time wasted before the joined battle with bread and bread van drivers. For he rapidly discovered several unexpected minefields.

Since he is a serious politician, Mr Hattersley at once set about extricating himself from it. It now seems likely that the van drivers' union will desist from administering the price of bread and in some supermarkets, if not in all, loaves may for a while cost a penny or two less than was previously the case. The surprises seem to have been various. First, as most corner grocers or institutional caterers already knew, the van drivers, while employing the tactics and rhetoric traditional of organized labour, operate for the most part as individual entrepreneurs of a particularly resourceful kind. The extent to which the prospect of an ugly outbreak of prices competition might seem a threat to their established modes of operation was unforeseen.

Secondly, there was some surprise at the near identity of view between the producers of bread and its distributors that more price competition would damage the industry and the consumer. When Whitehall calls for more competition and an industry for more controls, it all becomes a bit confusing.

And, thirdly, Mr Hattersley must have been surprised at the generally supine posture which the supermarket chains mostly adopted in the face of direct action by the van drivers. All of this must have given Mr Hattersley food for thought. For example, while the issue could have been referred to the Monopolies Commission, there were clear enough practical and political reasons why he should shrink from such a step. In general, anyway, the Monopolies Commission is a somewhat cumbersome weapon to deploy. Its reports take years rather than months.

In addition, since the Cabinet, against the advice of Mr Hattersley's predecessor, took the decision not to refer the Tate and Lyle takeover of Manbré and Garton on grounds of

other overriding public interest, his department has been faced with the need fundamentally to re-think the theory and practice of monopolies and mergers.

At the same time, Mr Hattersley has had to start discussions on what new regime is to replace the Prime Commission this summer. Almost everyone is agreed that simply to have another in the succession of price codes that have followed each other since the original was introduced by Sir Heath's government, with their rigidity and hugely detailed interference in a company's affairs, would be counter-productive.

It is for all these reasons that Mr Hattersley's mind has moved back to the good old Prices and Incomes Board. It excited great passions, for and against, when it was alive. Under the mellowing influence of the years, however, there is growing recognition of the quality, speed and informal method of work it did and, with the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, a growing regret that it was so cavalierly killed. If a body of the right composition and authority

were established, it could meet many of Mr Hattersley's difficult points. It could be seen as the successor to the Price Commission and conduct pricing inquiries as appropriate. It could operate more flexibly than the Monopolies Commission. Above all in the area of monopoly and mergers it could be used to establish an entirely new approach. For all the theory and attempts to produce objective rules, the fact is that some monopolies are inevitable and some may well work in the public interest.

Equally, there are other industrial and commercial situations which are not monopolies in the technical sense, but which do not seem to be working in the public interest. In some, as with the bread dispute, more price competition may be a sensible suggestion. In others, like banking, price competition clearly has little relevance, though other kinds of competition may be important.

A body like the old PIB could be used by Mr Hattersley and his successors to produce rapid and expert evidence on which future judgments where the public interest lies could be made.

## Peter Hill on the crisis in shipbuilding

### Casting around for a lifeline



Lord Incheape: Heading the shipowners' delegation to Downing Street.

The Government will at last be seen to be doing something to support shipbuilding.

But the problems in Britain are inextricably bound up with the crisis which is afflicting the shipbuilding industry throughout the world. Absent from today's talks will be senior Department of Industry officials who will be in Paris for a further round of talks tomorrow on measures to deal with the crisis under the umbrella of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The European Commission's delegates to the OECD discussions (prompted and goaded by the United Kingdom delegates) have been attempting to persuade the Japanese to accept fifty-fifty sharing of available new orders. This the Japanese have rejected on the grounds that it would be unworkable and would run counter to the principles of free trade.

Formal rejection of the idea will be given by Japanese government delegates to tomorrow's talks although there are clear indications that the Japanese, worried about a confrontation with Europe on the shipbuilding issue, which could have far more widespread repercussions, will propose some new measures to try to maintain a conciliatory stance.

Japanese officials were in London at the end of last week for preliminary talks and they had further discussions with the French and German governments as well as with Commission officials. Europe sees Japan's inroads into the world market—they secured 80 per cent of new orders last year—as a threat to the very survival of the European industry.

Owners have been attracted by the level of Japanese prices and the finance facilities. But in a few of these concerns not an attraction in other fields Japan's delegates to the OECD are likely to indicate Tokyo's willingness to exercise further restraint. This could well involve tighter surveillance by Japanese government agencies of price levels and possibly an offer to restrain ship sales to certain countries.

Such proposals would provoke a mixed reaction, but there will be relief that the Japanese appreciate the strength of feeling in Europe. At all costs it is vital that the dialogue continues.

Japan has already taken steps to reduce its industry's output, as has Sweden. In the west since the last OECD meeting governments throughout the Community have been working on their own schemes for support.

The Dutch have introduced a finance package to encourage their owners to build at home and have also announced plans for a major reconstruction of the industry, which, if approved, would cost some £250m.

Other governments, like that of the United Kingdom, are working on interim support schemes, much to the surprise of the Commission which has been attempting to harmonize arrangements. The ability of the Brussels organization to produce a package acceptable to all sides is questioned, and the dream of a Community-wide home credit scheme could well take up to two years to formulate.

Member governments are therefore being forced to develop their own domestic prescriptions and the Commission has accordingly tightened up its controls for monitoring aid schemes drawn up by member states. This is posing certain tactical problems for civil servants.

There is general agreement, however, that short-term subsidies should not become a permanent feature of shipbuilding aid schemes, although a large variety of subsidies are commonplace among shipbuilding countries the world over. There appears to be a recognition that the Japanese are now attempting to placate the European industries and the Commission is as anxious to avoid a complete breakdown in the talks as the Japanese.

But what is desperately needed is some way of ensuring a more equitable share of the reduced volume of orders. This is a short-term problem and it seems that national aid policies, possibly followed by some Commission framework which could eventually subsidize individual policies, is now inevitable.

Even West Germany, which with Denmark has resisted any moves to take unilateral steps, may well be pressed into adopting defensive measures to protect its industry.

British plans are well advanced, but while the short-term requirement must be to gain new orders in the next three or four months, contraction of the industry in Britain and Europe is inevitable.

## 'Safety net' success brings train of problems for Bank

The economic clouds over Whitehall may have lifted a little recently, but over the Bank of England the sky has remained uncomfortably leaden.

Heavily criticized for its handling of the foreign exchange and gilt markets last year, the Bank is now having to operate amid constant speculation on a fundamental change in its future role.

To cap everything, the past few weeks have seen it pitched forked into fresh controversy over its attempt to operate seemingly irreconcilable policies in the foreign exchange and domestic money markets.

Ironically, the root of the Bank's latest dilemma lies in December's success in stringing together the sterling "safety net". This meant that foreigners would not only stop selling pounds but might well start to buy them, particularly in view of high British interest rates.

Given that the safety net and the ending of financing arrangements for third country trade were going to lead to a flow of funds in Britain's favour anyway, some argued that there was no reason to risk attracting hot money inflows, too. These could have been deterred by allowing sterling to appreciate and/or by allowing a quick, sharp fall in interest rates.

Instead, it was decided, largely for export considerations, to stop sterling appreciating. It was also decided to go for a gradual decline in interest rates.

The considerations here were two-fold. First, there were still some potentially worrying months ahead, particularly over the spring of the pay talks. Second, it was hoped to have interest rates still looking attractive as the Government moved into its funding programme for 1977-78.

But for financial markets the combination of an undervalued pound and unnecessarily high interest rates was all too much. And with overseas money flowing in fast and driving interest rates down, there was no way that domestic investors, too, were not going to jump aboard the bandwagon.

The result was a tidal wave of money chasing any high yielding monetary instruments that offered the prospect of rapid capital appreciation. Against this tide the Bank tried to employ two main weapons. In the gilt market it pumped up the supply of stock, culminating on January 20 in the issue of the Jumbo £1,250m "cap" stock. The idea was less to mop up renewed demand than to deter investors from investing in the first place.

But things did not go according to plan. The issue was declared exhausted on the morning of January 27, investors were showing profits of 3 1/2 per cent in a week and the Bank was again under pressure.

In the money markets the Bank's tactic was to try to hold up Treasury bill rates, which in turn would keep up MLR, which in turn would show investors the Bank's general view on interest rates. Although the Treasury bill rate is theoretically fixed by market forces, the Bank in fact normally exercises considerable influence over the rate through its hold over the main tenders, the discount houses.

By late January, however, the discount houses were being heavily subsidised for TBs by outside investors who were not under the same restraints as the discount houses.

On January 28, MLR was forced down 1 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent, much to the annoyance of the Bank, and last week it looked likely to be forced down to 11 1/2 or 11 per cent. Hence the Bank's attempt to short-circuit this by fixing MLR at 12 per cent on Thursday and suspending the TB/MLR formula.

This week will tell us if the Bank's intervention will really work. Friday's Treasury bill tender would, in fact, have called for an 11 1/2 per cent MLR, and the key question now will be how the secondary market behaves this week.

If it shows that it can work independently of Bank policy, speculation is bound to grow about the possibility of exchange controls on the 1977 lines.

Meanwhile, the consequences of the Bank's failure to stem the flow of money into gilts and Treasury bills have been truly bizarre.

With money being drawn into the gilt market at a time when the banks were under heavy seasonal pressure to finance tax payments, the banking system was left facing a massive squeeze on its liquidity. As an ancient clearing banker might have remarked: "Money, money everywhere, but all the banks did shrink; Money, money everywhere, The Government did drink."

In short, what happened was that the Bank sold massive amounts of gilts on one side and found itself having to back-sell sums to the banking system and discount houses on the other. On one day in December the Bank was said to have pumped up to £800m into the system by taking Treasury bills off the discount houses on a temporary basis. In late January its daily assistance to the houses reached £1,000m on one occasion.

The ending of the tax payment season will unwind some problems, but it may yet take fresh measures or a breakdown of pay talks to ease the pressures on interest rates. Whatever the outcome, the next few months are going to see plenty of debate on the appropriateness of longer term methods of implementing an economic policy that is supposed to be paying rather more attention to monetarist principles.

John Whitmore

## Business Diary in Europe: EEC shuffle • Hot and bothered

ation of the first reorganization of a Commission under us's new broom s the way for Sir 3, one of the British chief advisers on - to secure a plum

who was a key Britain's EEC entry team, is earmarked important post of eral in the external riment of the Com- er the affairs West -President Wilhelm The relationship general to a Com- roughly the same permanent under- a Cabinet minister

ch humming and the reorganization mission's 20 policy Jenkins and his have decided to new directorate- look after the Com- evolving fisheries new head of this is likely to be laher, an Irishman working in the airs department in regional affairs general has gone to 1, Pierre Mathijssen, sen working in the vision of the Com-



Sir Roy Denman.

mission. He takes over from Renato Ruggero, the recently-appointed chief spokesman. Other appointments to replace ailing or retiring director generals are expected in the coming months. It is during this second reshuffle that Sir Roy is expected to go to Brussels.

Solar dispute Carlo Donat Cattin, the Italian Minister of Industry, has been at it again. The most out-

spoken member of the Government, he enjoys expressing views out of line with his Cabinet colleagues, whether it be over exchange rate policy, the building of the projected Gioia Tauro steelworks, or the security aspects of the Fiat deal with Libya.

Now sparks—or perhaps sun-spots—are flying with the French over solar energy. Canada returned a few days ago from a conference of 22 countries in Nice after openly disagreeing with his French hosts. The conference of mainly Mediterranean nations was convened by his French opposite number to discuss the application of solar energy.

It was all "a commercial marketing operation", said Donat, designed to promote French technology in the Mediterranean basin. In consequence of his attitude, no Italian has joined the permanent international secretariat set up by the conference under French representation Jean Claude Coll.

Beside France, Italy is the country in the region which has made most progress in the application of solar energy, and the Italians evidently feel that the French will do their best to keep them out of foreign markets, especially as the costs

are becoming less prohibitive than a few years ago.

A group of Italian firms is going ahead, with help from the EEC, to build a prototype electric power plant using a process financed by the National Research Council. The state of corporation ENI has allocated £2m for applied research projects.

### Jobs share-out

It has been clear for some time that the European steel industry is in a crisis and that the German plants are probably the worst hit of all.

But few people can have thought that the crisis was so grave that it should pinch the purse of some of the industry's top managers.

That is what is happening in the Saar steel group Röchling-Burbach.

per cent while white collar workers will stay at home for one week out of four. Accordingly, the company's top management will take a proportionate cut in salary.

According to the Iron and Steel Industry Federation in Düsseldorf there have been isolated instances in the past of bosses renouncing some of their income in times of trouble. But the action of the directors at Röchling-Burbach is considered to be unprecedented in scale.

### Debts

Compensation for the wartime production for Nazi Germany of aircraft and naval vessels never in fact manufactured is the subject of Italy's latest political scandal.

The press has been reproducing photocopies of letters from the staff of prominent political personalities written in the early 1970s and calling for the prompt settlement of claims alleged to amount to over 30,000m lire (£20m).

Three wartime firms, the story runs—Caproni, Siai Marchetti, and Riva Calzoni—produced for the Germans between September 1943 and the end of the war several thousand military aircraft and a number of light naval vessels, but never

received a Reichsmark in payment.

But there is one flaw. The aircraft and vessels never came off the production line. The authorities, it seems, got wind of this, and in fact only a small fraction of the claims has been paid.

This might have seemed all past history, had not some of the letters—forgeries or not—borne the signatures of prominent Italian politicians, including Christian Democrats, Emilio Colombo and Giulio Andreotti.

Colombo is no longer a minister, and temporarily out of the political fray. But Andreotti is Prime Minister, and speculation is circulating in Rome that the documents have been leaked at the present moment as a manoeuvre directed against him.

Scandals of this sort are nothing new for months the public has heard tales linking payouts over the purchase of Lockheed aircraft with two Christian Democrat and one Social Democrat ex-ministers in a parliamentary investigation now in its closing stages.

If past experience is anything to go by, the latest scandal will probably make the headlines for a time—and then be superseded by another one.

## DARTMOUTH INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar. All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to—

Lloyds Bank Limited, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA. Telephone: Worthing 502541 (STD Code 0903). B. E. PRIORY, F.C.I.S. Secretary



## Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

## Will consolidation get the cold shoulder?

The formulation of another stage of incomes policy, to come into operation in the summer, will have the nature of an attempt to assemble a particularly complex jigsaw puzzle.

The complexity of the puzzle does not derive so much from the number of pieces, as from the extreme irregularity of their shape.

Take, for example, one question sometimes mentioned as a possible item for inclusion, that of the consolidation of the two pay supplements which have arisen from the operation of the £6 policy of 1975-76 and the present 5 per cent, with a minimum of £2.50 and a maximum of £4.

The problem exists because of the particular form which the last two phases of incomes policy have had. In both cases the pay increase was simply tacked-on as a new element of earnings, and it will be an intricate and uncertain business to integrate them into pay structures.

Two broad assumptions are widely made. The first is that at some stage the £6 supplement of 1975-76 will have to be added to basic wage rates, and that this will percolate through the earnings structure, adding to overtime rates, shift premia and so on. The effect of this will be to push up earnings significantly.

The second broad assumption is that the consolidation of the present phase of 5 per cent, minimum £2.50 and maximum £4, will be very much less extensive. Here the underlying thought is that because the fundamental expression of the policy is an increase of 5 per cent on total earnings, when this figure is applied as a percentage to basic rates, and works its way through the overtime, shift and bonus rates, the end result should still theoretically be only the same as the original 5 per cent on total earnings.

Where the consolidation is of a sum expressed in cash, then the ultimate cost will be greater than that initial cash figure. Where the consolidation is of a percentage, the end product should still be that same percentage.

**'For flat wage earners consolidation will have no significance'**

But on that basis, it has to be assumed that where, under the present policy, an individual or group of workers, is receiving not 5 per cent, but instead either the arbitrary minimum of £2.50 or the arbitrary maximum of £4, this will be consolidated as a cash sum, and therefore will have a multiplier effect.

It is not at all clear that any of these assumptions in fact constitutes a fundamental truth. Rather it seems to be that a presumption of truth is being created by repeated assertions of an assumption.

Thus, it is pretty certain that at some point the £6 will be consolidated into basic rates, producing a ripple through the whole earnings structure, though it is by no means apparent that this was also lately inherent in the original formulation of the policy.

In the case of the present policy, it seems that there might well be scope for the employers to seek to minimize the cost of consolidation, or for the unions to seek to maximize the benefits, through the particular way in which it is carried out.

What is certainly true is that the effect of consolidation will vary enormously from industry to industry, company to company and individual to individual.

For anyone who simply receives a flat wage or salary consolidation will have no practical significance. But the lower the proportion of total earnings accounted for by basic

wage, the greater will be the impact of the multiplier effect of consolidation.

Thus, it is perfectly easy to work out examples in which, for a particular group of workers, or for an individual, consolidation might produce an increase in earnings of, say, 7 per cent. For different industries to consolidate the £6 instead of the cost might range anywhere between about 1.5 per cent and 5 per cent of the total wage bill.

Such examples need to be set against estimates that consolidation would add about 3 per cent to the national wage bill, and it then becomes clear how very uneven would be its impact.

This in turn explains why the call for consolidation arises only in particular quarters, for example among transport and engineering workers, who see the prospect of a substantial rise in earnings.

For the engineering industry the two supplements have added an additional complication to an already hopelessly complex earnings structure.

However, it seems highly unlikely that anything more than, at best, a token gesture of consolidation will be attempted in the next stage of incomes policy.

This is because there are so many other things which are seen to have greater urgency, such as the restoration of differentials and incentives, and the perceived need to give at least something to every worker. If anything significant is to be achieved in these directions, then there will be very little room for consolidation of the existing supplements if the total cost of the policy is not to be pushed to inflationary levels.

Also, consolidation might well work against other objectives of the policy. For example, it would benefit blue collar workers to a far greater extent than white collar, and would thereby further squeeze some differentials at a time when it is widely recognized that they have already been excessively eroded.

RC

## Overseas pay: will the Revenue see the light?

Woe unto the Chancellor of the Exchequer who extends his hand with a crumb of concession in the palm, for he shall surely have his whole hand bitten off. That might well be the reaction of Mr Healey to the response which has been evoked by proposals for changes in the taxation of Britons working abroad.

Shortly before Christmas the Chancellor announced that he believed it important to find ways of improving the tax treatment of employees living in this country, but working abroad. The proposed changes were embodied in a consultative document issued by the Inland Revenue.

The response to the proposals may be summarized thus: they were welcome, but inadequate.

Perhaps catching the rare scent of concession, such organizations as the Consultative Committee of Accountancy

**'Some measure of aggregation of short trips to qualify for tax relief should be allowed'**

Bodies, the Institute of Taxation, the Confederation of British Industry and the Management Consultants Association came forward with some helpful suggestions.

It is clear that the authorities have been taken aback by the vigour of the response and somewhat plaintive complaints may be heard in Whitehall to the effect that people should recognize a consultative document when they see it—and appreciate that its contents are more advisory, rather than firm proposals for legislation.

At all events a number of people are gaining the impression that the Inland Revenue is by no means deaf to the criticisms of its proposals. Perhaps the most serious and consistent criticism has centred around the proposal to exclude from tax relief all duties abroad of less than 30 consecutive days. By contrast, under the Revenue's taxation proposals, "where an employee performs his duties abroad for a continuous period of 30 days or more, he should be entitled to a deduction of 25 per cent of his emoluments for those duties if the period of absence is less than 365 days, and of 100 per cent if it is 365 days or more."

But, it is complained, many business people spend large parts of the year abroad without ever being away for the minimum continuous period of 30 days required to qualify for tax relief under these proposals. It is also argued that brief, but intensive and frequent, forays abroad, particularly by top people, may well be more arduous and disruptive of personal life than a longer term posting.

Therefore, some measure of aggregation of short trips to qualify for tax relief should be allowed. There is much confidence that the Inland Revenue, the Treasury, the Chancellor and, ultimately, Parliament will see the force of this argument and that it may well be reflected in the next Finance Bill.

Equally, it is believed that the Inland Revenue may not be entirely convinced by the argument that it makes little sense to allow only a 25 per cent deduction for absences of up to 364 days, but 100 per cent for absences of 365 days or more.

There is some indication that the Revenue might agree that a number of steps, leading up to the 100 per cent deduction after a year, might be a good idea.

With hopes apparently rising that the Inland Revenue's proposals will be amended on these and some other points it could be that by the middle of the year there will be a little more joy in the hearts of the businessmen who live out of subcases in distant hotels.

RC

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Insurance shares may have run out of steam but their future is good

Having been among the stock market's top performers last year, insurance broking shares have run out of steam in the past few weeks.

But although the sector's relative weakness is expected to last for a while, stockbroker Rowe & Pitman thinks the shares will offer excellent buying opportunities over the next few months.

In its first major review of the insurance broking sector, R & P expects an overall profit increase for the industry of around 60 per cent in the latest financial year. This exceptional growth owes much to sterling weakness, high inflation and high interest rates.

As these factors will not apply to the same extent next year the firm has written down earnings growth estimates to between 20 and 25 per cent. "However, a continuing flow of encouraging news is imminent," it says, "and insurance brokers are operating in a growth industry where many opportunities for innovation and expertise exist."

Among a whole clutch of purchase recommendations, R & P suggest three high-oversight groups: E. Heath, Milner and Sedgewick; Forster as well as the recently introduced Willis Faber.

Matthew Wrightson is seen as an interesting high yielding special situation, while among consistent performers, C. I. Bowring and Hogg Robinson seem reasonably valued. In view of the speculative element in Leslie & Godwin's share price sales are recommended if taken before rumours resurge. A switch out of Alexander Henderson is advised on the basis that

a period of consolidation is in the offing.

Announcement of Allied Breweries £164m investment plan has brought an about-turn

## Brokers' views

in de Zoete & Beran's investment thinking. The firm suggests Allied shares should now be bought for income.

Despite de Zoete's doubts about the main underlying assumption of Allied's investment programme—that the boom conditions of the early 70s will be repeated during the next few years—the firm says that it places no sense in making the major investments now in anticipation rather than contemporaneously with the boom as was the case last time. Meanwhile, Allied is significantly undervalued against the sector.

Following its 90 per cent interim profit rise to £16.1m, Incheape, the international merchandising group, features among several brokers' recommendations.

Henderson Crosthwaite, Bell & Latham, MacGregor and Grieverson Grant all say the shares offer significant long-term potential thanks to Incheape's strong base in the growth areas of the Middle and Far East and South East Asia, says Henderson.

Carter's reflection moves should provide an even better trading climate for the group and strongly suggests purchases.

Galloway & Pearson's bullish assessment of Dixons Photographic has already helped the

shares up in the last few days.

The firm believes that growth prospects are good while there are strong possibilities of further acquisitions over the next few years which would provide opportunities to improve the yield.

Making its predictions for the forthcoming bank results season, Fielding Newson-Smith goes for £218m from Barclays, £158m from Lloyds, £161m from Midland and £190m National Westminster.

Joining the debate about the widely expected rights issue from Barclays, Fielding says that there is no specific balance sheet reason for such a move. However, it does not believe an issue can be ruled out if the stock market remains buoyant since "opportunity" is an important factor.

On the precedent of the NatWest rights, Fielding says that if a healthy dividend increase accompanies any such action there could be substantial switching from the other leading cleavers.

The broker says that high profitability gives Lloyds shares attractions though the yield is inhibiting while it is cautious of Midland ratings despite hopes for improved earnings. It is also cautious of NatWest's heavy spending programme and its relatively strong dependence on the United Kingdom economy.

After their visit to the Birmingham toy fair, Grieverson Grant analysts reckon three groups seem particularly likely to do well this year. These are Berwick, Timpo, DCM and Lestney all of which are rated as strong holds.

Richard Allen

## Best-ever £2.34m pre-tax from Glanville Enthoven

Glanville Enthoven & Co, the international insurance-broking subsidiary of the Charterhouse Group, reports profits before tax for the year ended September 30, 1976, up from £1.55m to £2.34m. Brokerage income increased by 30 per cent to £851m.

In his annual statement the chairman, Mr J. S. Glanville Smith, tells shareholders that, for the first time, foreign currency earnings, which contribute to the United Kingdom's invisible exports, represented more than half (52 per cent) of the total brokerage income of the company.

However, due to inflation, subsidiaries in overseas countries have in some cases experienced difficulty in controlling costs and whereas their brokerage income has shown a good increase overall, profit showed a reduction. Although business within the United Kingdom continued to be conducted under difficult conditions, brokerage and profits increased.

Corroon & Black Corporation, who have owned 35 per cent of the equity capital of Glanville Enthoven since September 1975, merged in April 1976, their business with that of Symcor Corporation of Nashville, Tennessee. This relationship between Glanville and one of the largest insurance broking groups in the United States will increasingly develop to mutual advantage, Mr Glanville Smith added.

He states that the company's policy continues to be one of expansion, both by the development of existing business and by acquisition. The company seeks to acquire businesses in existing locations in the United Kingdom and overseas unit size, greater opportunity and profitability will be obtained.

An extension of coverage into new territories was being actively pursued and the intention is to increase the proportion of the company's income emanating from overseas.

## Hewlett-Packard doubles profits

A Scottish manufacturing plant, employing 700 people, is helping to write a big profits success story for the British-run arm of an American multinational.

Announcing more than doubled profits for the year to the end of October, Mr Dennis Taylor, managing director of Hewlett-Packard, a subsidiary of the California-based Hewlett-Packard Corp, said the subsidiary's plant at South Queensferry was now at the top of the profits league among the group's 27 manufacturing plants throughout the world.

Pre-tax profits for Hewlett-Packard Ltd last year reached £5.9m, compared with £2.5m in the previous year. The improvement came on sales of £36.6m, against £26.7m.

Mr Taylor said the main reason for the increased sales was "strong demand" for the specialized communications test instruments designed by the company's 80-strong research and development department.

## Securicor, Decca, THF and Dowty

Companies reporting results this week include: **TODAY:** Interiors: Bridge Group, Hume Fings, Vibropant Hold and Western Canada. **Finals:** Bank Leumi (Blackman & Conrad), Burch Inv Trust, Oly (Redacre), Securicor, City Services, UC Inv Verreem Refractories. **TOMORROW:** Interiors: A Aluminium (UK) (terry), Brotherhood (Pe

## Results this we

Decca, De La Rue (quarter), Dowty Group, Trade Supplies, Stan Group and Stewart Pla **Finals:** Crest Niche Drayton Premier Inv I General Cons Inv I Glass & Metal Holdings perial Group, and Man Overton.

**WEDNESDAY:** Interiors: Ellis & Co (Monday), Pretoria Por Cement, Regional Prop Westminister & County **Finals:** Anglo-Ames Secs, Trust House Forte Wether Holdings.

**THURSDAY:** Interiors: gety, Manordale Group, Warehouses, Ransom (Liam) & Son, Reliance wear Group, and Wood **Finals:** Birmood east, Cardia, Int J Dev (G & Co, Lande Lomond Inv Trust, P Cons, Porvair, Pride Clarke, Rawlings Bros, ish Agricultural Inds, u Inv Trust and W Bernard).

**FRIDAY:** Interiors: Ch Tyler. **Finals:** Alex Holdings and Chester W works Co.

## BHP caution

In the opening half year November 30 Australian Broken Hill Pty stepped up net profits by 40.3 per cent to \$444.92m. Sales rose 18.3 cent to a record \$2,086m.

But the directors do not expect this improvement will continue in the second-half to May.

An overall upturn in v trade has yet to occur, as lack of orders is restricting steel plant and mineral of tions.

Steel operations went on ing large losses, through the nch, dropped \$27.7m \$218.9m.—AP-DJ.

## SENTRUST

SENTRUST Ltd reports net h after tax and investment actions, of £2.3m for halfy December 31 against £2.6m time.

compared with the middle a quotation in the Stock Exa Daily Official List on Feb 1 of 41p.

**ISRAELI DISCOUNT**  
Net income for 1976 re £115m (Israeli), which is £7.7m (sterling), compared £74 (Israeli). Assets rose b per cent to \$25,809m (12 £2,472m sterling).

**DENT FOWNES**  
Trading since date of h sheet has been difficult be reorganising some companie it will take time for benef appear. But it plans a mai dividend.

**ESTATES AND AGENCY**  
Estates and Agency Ho have entered into an arrange with M. K. Morris and Alkin whereby each party 50 per cent stake in a new i ment and trading venture i as Duan Limited. Estate acquire Morris and Alkin's holding in Duanro on a fo basis, geared to profits, the Duanro which will be held by shares in Estates s each.

**SCOTTISH UNITED**  
First revenue of £5 million investors for 1976 from £1.98m to £2.03m. Gross tax payment raised from 2.61p. Based on a valuat investments on December 31 net assets available for or shareholders was £7 (£64.02m a year earlier), e lent to 106p (90p) for ordinary 25p share.

**NEWMAN INDUSTRIES**  
A letter has been sent ordinary, first preferred second preferred stockhold Agar Cross who have not and the offers by Newman to them that the Newman offer he on February 18. Newman now holds 88.1 per of the ordinary stock, 89. cent of the first preferred and 92.8 per cent of the preferred stock.

## Cutting the cost of business travel

Of greater concern than ever to the one and a half million or so British businessmen who travel abroad each year is to be able to get their tickets as cheaply as possible. Big organisations such as ICI, employ "in-house" travel managers to deal with company travel arrangements, while a growing number of smaller firms are looking to travel agencies to handle their business.

Air fare structures have become so complicated that it is worthwhile for companies requiring even a few hundred overseas bookings a year to employ an expert who can find ways of cutting down the cost.

The situation with air fares is complex enough, but further choices have been introduced in the past few years with special inclusive tours outside the resort areas, designed for business travellers as well as holidaymakers.

Typically, these are packages of a week's duration or less to city centres, with prices incorporating hotel accommodation, some meals and transfers to and from airports.

Prices can sometimes be significantly cheaper than if air tickets and accommodation are bought individually and separately, with the best bargains still to centres like Florence and Athens which have strong leisure attractions. For instance, a three-night stay in Athens can cost between £60 and £70 inclusive, whereas the standard excursion return air fare is £170.

Also useful are the great number of even more specialist packages, not widely publicized, linked to main conferences and exhibitions. A trip to Valencia for instance, if timed to coincide with the International Toy Fair, could cost £91.50, including two nights accommodation, against £144 for the ordinary economy class return air fare. *Business Traveller*, a new quarterly publication produced by Export Times Publishing, lists in its second issue, out last week, several hundred travel fare and other packages. Many

people do not realize that, unlike the old affinity group charter system used for transatlantic packages, there is no dishonesty in not attending the named event. It is simply a device used by the tour operator to negotiate group rates.

The disadvantage of most packages is that they involve travel either at weekends or on specific dates. Any last minute change of travel plans or hotel could more than cancel out the price gain.

British Airways, by introducing the Advance Excursion (Apex) fares at half price to the Continent albeit only to Greece, Turkey and Italy so far, is giving some extra flexibility. To qualify for the discount tickets must be bought at least 30 days before departure and the minimum stay is of one or two weeks, depending upon destination.

However, the Apex tickets can be used on scheduled services, giving a greater choice of departure and return times, and dates, than charter flights and there is no tie to a particular hotel. Both Apex and the similar Advance Booking Charter tickets have been available on transatlantic and some other long haul routes for some years.

For business executives, who, like everyone else, are suffering from the effects of the pay freeze, packages offer scope to combine a holiday with a business trip at no extra cost to themselves or their companies. It was with this in mind that several airlines also introduced "spouse fares".

Although, again, they are not widely publicized, they are available on most destinations within Europe and give a 50 per cent reduction on the first class or economy fare of the accompanying wife or husband. The maximum validity is five days and both must travel on the same day by the same carrier.

For travellers willing and able to commit themselves to a fixed itinerary and to use

packages *Business Traveller* quotes large savings, typically of about 40 per cent on the overall cost of scheduled air travel and accommodation.

Increased dissatisfaction among businessmen over paying full fare rates is creating new problems for the travel agencies who service company business. Previously, companies used travel agencies for the service they provided in purchasing tickets and accommodation "with a single telephone call".

Now, besides the new demands for bargain rates, the agencies' customers are making extra demands for service. The full fare paying passenger's reaction to the wider scope of discount fares is to look for improved facilities, such as the ability to book the aircraft seat at the time of buying the ticket.

Airlines are actively talking of providing special sections in their aircraft for full fare payers. The aim is to give businessmen peace to work on the journey without distraction by holiday makers.

Travel agencies report a big change in types of business traveller over the past 10 years or so. Previously only senior sales executives and board directors took trips abroad and they usually travelled first class.

Today, middle managers, engineers and a wide variety of other service staff make regular journeys away from head office. Some have almost created "commuter routes".

Faster aircraft and more frequent schedules obviate the necessity for many maintenance staff to live abroad. Today, although some increases in first class traffic are reported, most companies opt for economy air tickets, except for long distances or for top management staff.

As a result, there has been a big build-up of seasoned, economy-conscious business travellers, who are starting to make their demands heard.

Patricia Tisdall

## The John Lewis Partnership department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Estimated results for year ended 29th January 1977

Sales rose by 20% to £370 million. Department store sales increased by 18% to £219 million and sales in Waitrose supermarkets by 23% to £143 million.

Profit after interest rose by 16% to £23.5 million.

Profit sharing. All the equity capital of John Lewis Partnership Limited is held in trust for the benefit of the workers in the business. The profits remaining after taxation, preference dividends, pensions and allocations to reserves are distributed yearly among the workers as Partnership Bonus in proportion to their pay. This year the rate of distribution will be 15% (1976 13%).

John Lewis Partnership Limited consolidated results	1976/7	1975/6
	£000's	£000's
Sales (including VAT)	369,726	307,089
Profit after interest	23,524	20,266
Profit after tax and preference dividends	15,883	13,809
Pensions funds contributions	4,056	3,402
Partnership Bonus	6,435	4,736
Reserves	5,392	5,471

For further details please telephone 01-637 3434 Ext 6221 or write to Chief Information Officer, 4 Old Cavendish Street, London W1A 1EX.

## Freight report

Chartering of tankers for the Gulf to Europe sailings continues to be very subdued with little firm business being arranged, little inquiry for new business, and a vast supply of available tonnage.

From the few vessels booked last week it is possible to gauge that rate levels are remaining stable at between worldscale 24 and worldscale 25. However, Shell fixed the 219,000 ton deadweight World Happiness for a Gulf to Europe voyage in mid-February at worldscale 23.5, perhaps indicating that some weakening in rates was imminent.

A note of optimism about this year came from the major Hongkong-based tanker owner Y. K. Pao, chairman of the worldwide shipping group, late last week. He expects tanker rates to rise slowly this year

and laid-up tonnage to fall to around 25 million tons deadweight from the current 33 million tons deadweight level by the end of the year. The force behind this improvement he claims will be an increase in United States oil demand resulting from the policies of President Carter.

Mr Pao foresees that worldscale 32 will be the average rate for vlccs in 1977 compared with worldscale 28.5 last year. That being the case, and going on their recent performance, tanker rates have quite a climb ahead of them.

In dry cargo trading, the American freeze is still hampering grain chartering with brokers reporting that much of closed terms.

Despite an increase in the volume of fixing, brokers consider that the market is generally in a quiet mood still and any inquiry is readily being accommodated.

David Robinson

## PERKIN-ELMER LIMITED

## INTERIM STATEMENT

The results for the six months ended 31st December, 1976, based on unaudited accounts are as follows:—

	Six months ended 31st December 1976	Year ended 30th June 1975	1976
Turnover	4,635,773	3,463,861	7,897,634
Profit before Taxation	460,778	348,766	748,060
Less: Taxation Provision	239,685	181,358	327,000
Profit after Taxation	221,093	167,408	421,060

An Interim Dividend of 20.0p (5.0p) per Share is declared which together with the imputed tax credit is equivalent to 30.7p (7.7p) per Share.

## More share price

Commercial & Industrial

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## Banks hesitant over new issues

d prices (yields a

premiums)

	Latest Price	Prev week
er 6 Ln '83-85	60	60
oc 7 1/2 '92-97	55	53 1/2
7 1/2 '87-92	62	60
7 1/2 '83-93	50	50
7 1/2 '85-95	28p	28p
ed 10 1/2 Ln '94-	75	7 1/2
5 1/2 Ln	32	31 1/2
7 1/2 Ln '83-88	63 1/2	63 1/2

% Ln '96-2000	33%	51%
VERTICALS	34%	51%
8 '39-44	98	93
oods 7 1/2 '94	160	101
8 '90-94	65	64
9 C. T. 5 1981	82	73
6 70-80	80	79
10 1/2 '91-96	84	58
Met 10 '91-96	84	74
Keen 6 1/2 1985	831	15 82
th Ceam 7 1/2	113	112
Gen 4 1/2 '03-09	86	81
5 1/2 1980	107	105
5 '84-91	74	71
Bank 7 1/2 '85-93	70	71

-1	17.3	16.1	—
+1	2.2	4.4	5.8
+10	6.0	7.7	12.4
-2	25.0	11.8	4.7
—	—	—	—
+1	12.0	21.8	—
+2	6.1	11.3	6.8
—	5.8	8.5	7.6

a 6.75 per cent coupon rate, being arranged by Commerz-

53.8	+0.8	Brit Ind Ind	57.2	57.4
53.5	+0.6	Growth & Inc	57.2	57.4
54.6	+0.5	Free & Ind Dev	57.2	57.4
54.1	+0.4	Ind Ind Ind	57.2	57.4
51.3	+0.4	Risk Income	57.2	57.4
51.6	+0.7	Equity Income	57.2	57.4
51.3	+0.4	International	57.2	57.4
51.3	+0.4	Ind Ind Ind	57.2	57.4
47.9	+1.3	Banque Ind	57.2	57.4
47.3	+0.9	De Income	57.2	57.4
46.4	+2.1	De Recovery	57.2	57.4
46.6	+0.6	De Income	57.2	57.4
52.7	+1.0	De Accum	57.2	57.4
51.1	+0.5	De Smaller	57.2	57.4
52.5	+0.9	Secs of America	57.2	57.4
52.5	+0.9	Pacific Ind	57.2	57.4
49.4	+0.9	Overseas Ind	57.2	57.4
23.3	+16.9	Exempt Ind	17.5	14.5

36.8	+1.6	Balanced Fd.	35.6	2.5	7
36.5	-1.8	Dividend Fd.	35.6	2.5	7
<b>Brown Ship Unit Fund Managers</b>					
Founders					400
64.9	-	Brn Ship ECF	64.1	9.4	4
146.6	+1.2	Dolomite	148.8	39.1	-
154.5	-0.3	Lg Acum	157.2	20.3	-
<b>Canada Life Unit Trust Managers</b>					
2-6		Can. Life Unit Trs.			57
32.3	-	CanLife Gen	32.7	7.3	4
35.1	-	Do Acum	35.0	25.4	4
35.9	-0.1	Income Dist	35.9	25.4	4
37.9	-	Do Acum	34.1	36.3	8
<b>Capital Jamies Management Ltd.</b>					
100	old	Brook St. 512-2110	07-535	6	6
67.5	-2.5	Capital Fd	63.9	67.3	4
56.4	-2.5	Income Fd	52.9	32.9	9
<b>Capital Fund Managers Ltd.</b>					

71.0	+2.5	Int'l. Bus.	63.2	51.3	1
72.0	+2.5	Log Growth	65.4	72.3	3
73.0	+2.5	Do Accum	69.4	73.3	3
Friends President Unit Trust Managers List					
Fidelity End. Divid. Surfr.			1995-96		
34.0	+0.4	Friends Prev	32.2	34.4	4
41.9	+0.5	Do Accum	39.5	42.3	4
Funds to Report					
Public Trustee, Fidelity, W.C.			1995-96		
66.0	-1.0	Capita*	61.0	57.0	4
65.0	+1.0	Gross Income*	64.2	64.0	8
75.0	+1.0	High Yield*	73.0	75.0	8

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<b>&amp; Base</b>		<b>S CONVERTIBLES</b>		
De 7% L'n '96-2000		86	25	21
Advent S Conv't		86	25	21
AB Foods 7% '94		91	98	95
BGP 7% '94		96	124	
Boeing Co 7% S Bond		83	73	
Gen Petrol 6 7/8 '94		89	86	
British 10% '94		88	86	
Grand Mt 7% '94		88	86	
Gulf Coast 6 7/8 '94		86 1/2	15 1/2	
Hewitt & Dean 7%		112	112	
Ind and Gen 4 1/2 '94-99		101	102	
L'v & N York 6 7/8 '94		101	102	
MEPCO 6 7/8 '94		70	71	
Midland Bank 6 7/8 '94		70	71	
Rocky Mtn 6 7/8 '94		74	75	
Routledge 6 7/8 '94		74	75	
Stock Conv't		86	86	
Temple 6 7/8 '94		89	108	108
Trust Hist Fnd 5% '94		89	108	108

### More share prices

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News.

**Commercial & Industrial**  
**Carroll P J**

<b>LIGHTINGALE &amp; CO. LIMITED</b>			
Needle Street, London EC2R 5HP. Tel: 01-638 8651			
<b>Company</b>	<b>Price Change</b>	<b>Gross Dividend</b>	<b>Yld % P.E.</b>
'spring Ord	33rd +1	4.2	12.8 6.5
'spring 181% CULS	110 +2	18.5	16.8 —
'mitage & Rhodes	28 —	3.0	10.7 —
'borah Ord	101xd —	8.2	8.2 5.1
'borah 171% CULS	109 —	17.5	16.1 —
nry Sykes	50 +1	2.2	4.4 5.8
nes Burrough	52 +10	6.0	7.7 12.4
bert Jenkins	18 +2	25.0	11.8 4.7
'inlock Ord	13 —	—	— —
'inlock 12% ULS	55 +1	12.0	21.8 —
'ilock Holdings	54 +2	6.1	11.3 6.8
uter Alexander	68 —	5.8	8.5 7.6

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# Property

## Big demand for offices in Brussels

A marked increase in demand by owner-occupiers for centrally situated, modern, air-conditioned office buildings of between 3,000 and 8,000 sq metres in Brussels is noted in a survey just published by Richard Ellis. Sales to owner-occupiers have taken place in the region of 32,000 to 38,000 Belgian francs a sq metre calculated on ground and upper floors, including parking spaces. Those figures, they say, can be increased by up to 10 per cent for the sale of fully let buildings which have been realised to investment institutions.

Office rents have stabilised. Rates for fully air-conditioned buildings of high specification are in the range of 2,750 to 3,000 BF a sq metre in the Quartier Leopold, 2,000 to 2,750 BF in the Quartier Louise, 2,250 to 2,500 BF in the town centre and 2,500 to 2,750 BF in peripheral positions. The figures, except for the town centre, where rents are below those of January, 1976.

It is estimated that there are at present some 500,000 sq metres of new, fully air-conditioned offices to let in or around Brussels. In the past quarter, apparently, demand to lease space remained strong for areas of between 300 to 500 sq metres and Richard Ellis says that many serious inquiries were received for 6,000 to 10,000 sq metres, generally centred on the Quartier Leopold.

In the United Kingdom there was a good deal of competition for an industrial site of 30 acres at Buxwell, Nottingham, which has finally been acquired by Woolco, the hypermarket division of F. W. Woolworth Ltd. The site, about 2,500,000 sq ft, is being developed by Jones, Lang, Wootton and Hallam Brackett and Co, who acted for the receiver in the sale, say that at least two other large retail organisations were interested in acquiring it to redevelop half of it as a hypermarket.

The site is partly covered by a former railway wagon works totalling about 130,000 sq ft of industrial space. Subsequent planning permission, the building will be demolished and replaced by a new store of 100,000 sq ft, including 55,000 sq ft of selling area, with park-



Part of the Broadway Court office development, Peterborough, which will become available at the end of March.

ing for 1,200 cars and a petrol station. It is expected that the rest of the site will be developed for industrial use. A fresh office site in Andover Road, Winchester, has been acquired by Tarmac Properties for about £750,000. The site extends to about half an acre and has planning permission for an office block of 45,000 sq ft on six floors and parking for 80 cars; the entire accommodation has been pre-let to the Department of the Environment.

Architects for the scheme are the Oxford Architects Partnership; building will be carried out by Tarmac Construction, with completion in early next year. The Hammond Phillips Partnership acted for Tarmac in the acquisition and Hamphill Holdings, the venture, were advised by Debenhams Tewson and Chinnocks.

Broadway Court, an office building in Peterborough City, was acquired by Tarmac Development Corporation by Thomas Cook, the travel firm, who are moving to new headquarters at Thorpe Wood, Peterborough. Broadway Court, part of the main shopping area in Peterborough, was completed in 1974 and received a high commendation from the Royal Institute of British Architects. It comprises two elements, one of 4,000 sq ft in a stone-fronted Edwardian building which was renovated, and a further 16,000 sq ft in a new structure built behind the three sides of a courtyard behind the old building. The rent is £2.75 a sq ft and letting is through the corporation.

Nearing completion in the Harrow Road, west London, is a new office scheme which will provide about 11,300 sq ft in a building about 8,000 sq ft will be available for letting. Overlooking the Grand Union canal, the development is by Lawford and Sons, builders' merchants, who will occupy the ground floor as showrooms. The site is adjacent to that of the new Caird Street sports centre due to be opened next November. Rent for the avail-

able space is £3.50 a sq ft and inquiries are being dealt with by Lawford and Sons, of Camden Town.

Gerald Ely

## Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

### NON-SECRETARIAL

### KEYSTONE 1977

We are now conducting interviews for suitable applicants who will be available to commence employment on or after

### 14th FEBRUARY 1977

Interviewers commencing salary £2,500 p.a. plus commission with opportunity for rapid promotion with commensurate salary of £3,500 plus commission. Previous experience not essential if you have a good personality and commercial background. For more details and appointment ring

**278 4141**

### PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

£2,800

Young person with flair for administration and slow typist to handle correspondence and agency liaison in busy personnel dept. Lots of opportunity to work on your own initiative in this responsible position. Age 19+

### KEYSTONE AGENCY

278 4141

**OFF THE RECORD** Do you like meeting people every day? Will you enjoy the thought of a person who will work for a major company? We are looking for a Receptionist/Typist. Good salary - £2,800 p.a. - £3,500 p.a. - £4,000 p.a. - £4,500 p.a. - £5,000 p.a. - £5,500 p.a. - £6,000 p.a. - £6,500 p.a. - £7,000 p.a. - £7,500 p.a. - £8,000 p.a. - £8,500 p.a. - £9,000 p.a. - £9,500 p.a. - £10,000 p.a. - £10,500 p.a. - £11,000 p.a. - £11,500 p.a. - £12,000 p.a. - £12,500 p.a. - £13,000 p.a. - £13,500 p.a. - £14,000 p.a. - £14,500 p.a. - £15,000 p.a. - £15,500 p.a. - £16,000 p.a. - £16,500 p.a. - £17,000 p.a. - £17,500 p.a. - £18,000 p.a. - £18,500 p.a. - £19,000 p.a. - £19,500 p.a. - £20,000 p.a. - £20,500 p.a. - £21,000 p.a. - £21,500 p.a. - £22,000 p.a. - £22,500 p.a. - £23,000 p.a. - £23,500 p.a. - £24,000 p.a. - £24,500 p.a. - £25,000 p.a. - £25,500 p.a. - £26,000 p.a. - £26,500 p.a. - £27,000 p.a. - £27,500 p.a. - £28,000 p.a. - £28,500 p.a. - £29,000 p.a. - £29,500 p.a. - £30,000 p.a. - £30,500 p.a. - £31,000 p.a. - £31,500 p.a. - £32,000 p.a. - £32,500 p.a. - £33,000 p.a. - £33,500 p.a. - £34,000 p.a. - £34,500 p.a. - £35,000 p.a. - £35,500 p.a. - £36,000 p.a. - 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## PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

## UK HOLIDAYS

## \* ALL WEATHER GOLF \*

Take a mid-week break and play four North Norfolk all-weather courses and stay at the lovely LINKS COUNTRY PARK HOTEL. 4 and 5 day inclusive golfing holidays from £35.00. \* EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION \* SUPERB CUISINE \* Demi-Pension including full English breakfast and all Green Fees. For full details and reservations, please contact: Links Country Park Hotel (Dept. T), West Runton, Norfolk, NR27 9QH. Tel: West Runton (0263 75) 691.

## SPORT AND RECREATION

## PADDLE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Player for 21-21-21 can now sail across the Atlantic in a 21' inflatable boat. The boat is built of a special material which is strong, light and easy to handle. It is also very comfortable and has a built-in stove and sink. The boat is available for hire from the Atlantic Crossing Centre, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-637 0594.

## UK HOLIDAYS

## REWARD

Are you in hotel with holiday accommodation available in the UK? If so, please contact the British Tourist Authority, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-637 0594.

## ENTHUSIAST, NR. GOODMANHAM

Does anybody remember... Those interested in forming an Enthusiast Association please write to: Christopher Thompson, M.A., 32, Transham Road, Cambridge.

## Every day the Spastics Society's Needs Grow.

Spastic babies are born every day. They need special care and attention. The Spastics Society provides help and support for these children and their families. For more information, contact the Spastics Society, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## FITCHLEY ROUND TABLE

Chairman: Professor Sir... The Fitchley Round Table is a series of discussions on current events. The next discussion will be on 'The Future of the British Empire'. For more information, contact the Fitchley Round Table, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## \* FIRE ANGEL \*

At the Fire Angel Theatre, Haymarket, London, W.1. The Fire Angel Theatre is a series of performances by firemen. The next performance will be 'The Fire Angel'. For more information, contact the Fire Angel Theatre, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Members are advised that the Royal Institute of International Affairs is a series of lectures on international affairs. The next lecture will be on 'The Role of the United Nations'. For more information, contact the Royal Institute of International Affairs, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## CANCER RESEARCH

Much of our scientific research is devoted to the study of cancer. The Cancer Research Campaign is a series of research projects on cancer. For more information, contact the Cancer Research Campaign, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## THE LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

The League Against Cruel Sports is a series of campaigns against cruel sports. The next campaign will be against 'The Cruelty of the Bullfight'. For more information, contact the League Against Cruel Sports, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## WANTED - Jenson Interceptor, left hand drive, See Motors Wanted.

YOUNG CHILDERN: See School (10-15 yrs) group. See Services. Accommodation available in the UK. For more information, contact the Young Children's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## STRIKE ONE NEEDS YOU! See CIVIL ENGINEERS - North Wales.

SECRETARY: See Services. SECRETARY: See Services. For more information, contact the Secretary's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## PEOPLE FOUND ON ONE U.K.

UNDERSTANDING: See Services. UNDERSTANDING: See Services. For more information, contact the Understanding's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## BOOTS THE CHEMIST. Have you your boots checked?

MALE: See Services. MALE: See Services. For more information, contact the Male's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

WANTED: See Services. WANTED: See Services. For more information, contact the Wanted's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## WHY PAY MORE? Economy flights to Europe, Middle East, Africa, etc.

WEEKENDS ABROAD: 100 (Europe), 150 (Africa), 200 (Asia). For more information, contact the Weekend's Abroad, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## OVERLAND TRAVEL with your own car.

TRAVEL: See Services. TRAVEL: See Services. For more information, contact the Travel's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## INDIA/PAKISTAN. Special escorted tours.

INDIA/PAKISTAN: See Services. INDIA/PAKISTAN: See Services. For more information, contact the India/Pakistan's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

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## WINTER SALES

SALE AT WARDROBE: See Services. SALE AT WARDROBE: See Services. For more information, contact the Sale at Wardrobe's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW CASINO: See Services. THE NEW CASINO: See Services. For more information, contact the New Casino's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## LONDON RESIDENTIAL CLUB

Lower Sloane Street. Avoid inflated hotel prices and the discomfort of the London Club. For more information, contact the London Club, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## Cranham Wood Hotel

10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1. Tel: 01-637 0594.

## HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

## THE BEST ON CORFU

Is available through Corfu Villas Ltd. Our brochure features 100 of the best holiday homes in Corfu. For more information, contact Corfu Villas Ltd, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## SPECIALISTS IN ECONOMY FLIGHTS

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: See Services. WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: See Services. For more information, contact the Worldwide Travel's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## UNITED AIR TRAVELS

UNITED AIR TRAVELS: See Services. UNITED AIR TRAVELS: See Services. For more information, contact the United Air Travels's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## TRAVELAIR

TRAVELAIR: See Services. TRAVELAIR: See Services. For more information, contact the Travelair's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## WHEN FLYING

WHEN FLYING: See Services. WHEN FLYING: See Services. For more information, contact the When Flying's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## SPRING SUN

SPRING SUN: See Services. SPRING SUN: See Services. For more information, contact the Spring Sun's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## FLY WHISPERS: economy travel specialists.

FLY WHISPERS: See Services. FLY WHISPERS: See Services. For more information, contact the Fly Whispers's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## RELIABLE ECONOMY FLIGHTS

RELIABLE ECONOMY FLIGHTS: See Services. RELIABLE ECONOMY FLIGHTS: See Services. For more information, contact the Reliable Economy Flights's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## ITALIAN VILLA Holidays on the Italian Coast

ITALIAN VILLA: See Services. ITALIAN VILLA: See Services. For more information, contact the Italian Villa's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## GREECE 77: Athens from £60.

GREECE 77: See Services. GREECE 77: See Services. For more information, contact the Greece 77's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## YANKEE GO HOME from £135.

YANKEE GO HOME: See Services. YANKEE GO HOME: See Services. For more information, contact the Yankee Go Home's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## MADRID, BARCELONA, ATHENS, etc.

MADRID, BARCELONA, ATHENS: See Services. MADRID, BARCELONA, ATHENS: See Services. For more information, contact the Madrid, Barcelona, Athens's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## OVERLAND TRAVEL with your own car.

OVERLAND TRAVEL: See Services. OVERLAND TRAVEL: See Services. For more information, contact the Overland Travel's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## INDIA/PAKISTAN. Special escorted tours.

INDIA/PAKISTAN: See Services. INDIA/PAKISTAN: See Services. For more information, contact the India/Pakistan's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

## HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

WANTED: See Services. WANTED: See Services. For more information, contact the Wanted's Services, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W.1.

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